

Cellulite: the truth Dr Thomas Stuttford page 22



Where did the money go? Jan Ashworth page 23

Nicole Kidman, naked in London Interview page 23



BOOKS RAYMOND SEITZ ON HAROLD EVANS'S AMERICA

ANTHONY QUINTON ON ISAIAH BERLIN p42,43

West is ready to launch strikes on Iraq

By Bronwen Maddox and Philip Webster

THE UNITED STATES and Britain moved last night to the brink of a military attack against Iraq...

The leap in the scale and urgency of military preparations came as the United Nations withdrew more than 400 weapons inspectors...

"We continue to hope - indeed, pray - that Saddam will comply with UN resolutions," said President Clinton yesterday in his lengthiest remarks on the worsening crisis.

Iraq would be capable of developing weapons of mass destruction "within months not years" if it succeeded in shutting out UN inspections...

Although Baghdad's refusal to comply with UN resolutions has led to several military showdowns with Western forces over the past seven years...

The Pentagon ordered 129 additional aircraft to the region, including 50 more attack planes to air bases in Kuwait...

There are already 180 warplanes and 23 Navy vessels in the region ready for action, together with 23,500 US troops.

Orders have been drafted allowing thousands more US ground troops, a hundred more warplanes and more

ships to pour into the Gulf if Mr Clinton decided to launch an attack.

The military strength mustered would then be equal to that deployed in the last period of tension in February.

The US build-up follows Iraq's October 31 declaration that it would no longer co-operate with UN weapons inspectors...

Last night Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, led a short tour of North Africa to return for crisis meetings in New York and made a final appeal to Saddam to back down.

Richard Butler, the chief UN arms inspector, said he pulled his weapons brief off of Iraq on the "strong" recommendation of the US...

Britain remains Mr Clinton's most prominent ally. Tony Blair told the Commons that the West would act unless Saddam "immediately" came back into line with UN resolutions...

"The quarrel that Saddam Hussein has is with the whole of the international community and if we allow him with this substantial breach of the agreement to get away with it and we allow him to develop these weapons of mass destruction, we will pay a very heavy price in the future," Mr Blair said.

In anticipation of possible hostilities, the British Embassy in Kuwait has authorised non-essential staff to leave, and suggested that the 4,500 Britons there "consider their own plans".

The State Department also began pulling out non-essential personnel and their families from embassies in Israel and Kuwait yesterday. It has told private American citizens that they "may want to consider departing" from Kuwait...

Israel, hit by Iraqi Scud missiles in the 1991 Gulf War, said it would take "precautions as necessary". The Defence Ministry has decided to open gas mask exchange centres to allow citizens to exchange those they still hold from the 1991 war.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said: "Israel understands it has a great responsibility to take all the steps to defend itself and its citizens and we never fail to do so."

A Tel Aviv newspaper reported that in a private conversation on Tuesday, Mr Clinton and Mr Netanyahu discussed whether the US would protect Israel if Iraq fired ballistic missiles.

As preparations escalated, opposition to an American attack began to emerge in the Arab world. Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, said: "We are for a diplomatic and political solution."

UN signals action, page 18 Cat and mouse, page 24 Leading article, page 25



The Queen and President Chirac after the unveiling of the Winston Churchill statue

The few survivors mark Armistice Day at the Menin Gate

FROM ALAN HAMILTON AT THE MENIN GATE

DOWN the brooding walls of the Menin Gate scroll 57,000 names of the dead from the Ypres Salient who have no known grave...

The British lost 300,000 dead, wounded and missing to advance the front line six miles. Winston Churchill, the newly appointed War Minister in 1919, exhorted the Imperial War Graves Commission to acquire the entire ruins of Ypres: "A more sacred place for the British race does not exist in the whole world."

Every night at eight o'clock for 70 years, with the brief interruption during the Second World War, the Ypres Fire Brigade has played The Last Post at this grim memorial.

If one bugle call represents one man, they have still



Halestrap recited Binyon's exhortation from memory

blind, was helped from his wheelchair by his carers to take centre stage and recite from memory the exhortation by Laurence Binyon that graces every British service of remembrance: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old..."

He stumbled slightly but as he finished the assembled gathering of veterans, their children, grandchildren and relatives, robustly repeated the last line: "We will remember them."

The Queen laid her wreath with its simple inscription: "In memory of the glorious dead." The Last Post sounded by six fire brigade buglers pierced the still, cold air, and a great shower of poppies fluttered down from the roof of the memorial, dusting monarchs and veterans alike in red.

The old men do not forget, and a rheumy eye can still fill with tears at distant memories of fallen comrades. Their minds are often surprisingly sharp. Ernest Stevens, who will be 100 next year, still recalls vividly the shellfire at Bois Greniers, when he helped a comrade with a badly

wounded arm to a German field hospital, tearing his shirt sleeve off to provide a bandage. As a result of his action, Mr Stevens was taken prisoner. For Arthur Halestrap it was an emotional day, recalling the armistice of 80 years ago. "My mind goes back to the actual date, and when I'm here I think of the men of my age and generation who lost their lives for a cause."

More veterans awaited the Queen inside the town's magnificent Cloth Hall, meticulously rebuilt stone by stone from the rubble of Ypres. Four Canadians, all within sight of their centenary or past it, almost leapt from their chairs to shake her hand. So, too, did Albert Alexander from Guernsey - at 97 the baby of the party and a survivor of the Ypres Salient, resident in his Chelsea Pensioner uniform. "I am very honoured to meet you," he said, presenting the Monarch with a smart white-gloved salute.

In the Cloth Hall the Queen presented the town with a copy of Paul Nash's stark painting The Menin Road, the original of which hangs in the Imperial War Museum. It is a bleak and hopeless scene of mud, blackened tree stumps, and living men wearing the pallor of death.

The Menin Road led to Passchendaele and to near-certain annihilation. The carnage of the first industrialised war between great armies is one of the abiding memories of the century, and the Menin Gate is one of the most powerful reminders of it.

The gate will stand, and for years to come the good firmen of Ypres will pierce the dusk with their bugle call. Future generations will find it hard to comprehend; there will be no one left who was there for them to ask.

Paris tribute to Churchill

Exactly 54 years ago Winston Churchill walked down the Champs Elysees with General Charles de Gaulle to the cheers of newly-liberated Parisians. Yesterday the Queen unveiled a statue of him in the heart of Paris. President Chirac paid tribute to Britain's wartime leader as the embodiment of fighting spirit and a vital ally in France's darkest hour... Page 5

honoured only 20,000 of those names.

The Queen, accompanied by King Albert of the Belgians, yesterday laid a wreath within the arches of the gate, erected in 1927. It will probably be the last time the Great War is commemorated in the presence of those who fought in it. A tiny group of survivors were lined up for the Queen's inspection, the oldest 103 and the youngest 97. Those who could struggled from their wheelchairs to shake the monarch's hand.

But the oldest was the spryest. Robert Burns, despite his years, snapped smartly to attention from his seat. He fought at Loos in 1915 with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, and lives in a retirement home in Wokingham, Berkshire, where he is reportedly his life and soul.

Most of the handful who survive are approaching, or have passed, their century. This was probably the last chance for any of them to play a key part in the ceremony.

Albert Halestrap, late of the Royal Engineers, and nearly

'Battle for Britain' begins

By Peter Riddell

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown today launch a "political battle for Britain" to persuade the Scottish people that they will be better off within the United Kingdom than by splitting away.

Mr Brown sets out the new Labour strategy in an interview with The Times this morning, ahead of a speech by Mr Blair in Glasgow later today. This will mark the start of Labour's campaign against the Scottish Nationalists for next May's first elections to the new parliament in Edinburgh.

Mr Blair will highlight the alleged contrast between a "social justice agenda and a separatist agenda. We will be building schools, while the separatists will be building embassies."

Union and SNP, page 14

£1m Constable sketches lost by V&A 'months ago'

By Dalya Albergé Arts Correspondent

TWO important oil sketches by John Constable are missing, the Victoria and Albert Museum admitted last night. The London museum last saw them in August and believes that they have been stolen. Their combined value approaches £1 million.

Alan Borg, Director of the V&A, is devastated, not least because Dedham Lock and Mill and Sketch for Valley Farm were among works donated to the museum by the artist's daughter. The news comes just months after an Oriental vase was stolen from the museum.

Mr Borg says that with more than a million items in the prints, drawings and paintings department, where the sketches were stored, it is almost impossible to prevent

such losses occasionally. "We are extremely concerned and upset by this."

The sketches were present in early August when the collection underwent one of the

museum's regular audits. The disappearance was discovered last week because one of the sketches had been requested for a loan.

"We are increasingly pessimistic," Dr Borg said. "We can only conclude that they have been stolen." The police and the Art Loss Register, which has a computerised database of stolen works of art, have been contacted.

Dedham Lock, circa 1810-15, and Valley Farm, circa 1835, are too well known to be sold, according to Dr Borg. On the market the 5in by 6in sketches have been valued by the museum at £500,000 and £300,000 respectively.

The public is barred from the storerooms, but Dr Borg agreed that, with fire escape routes needing to be kept open, it was always possible that an intruder could have Continued on page 2, col 5



"On your left, fingers crossed, there should be a pre-Raphaelite painting"

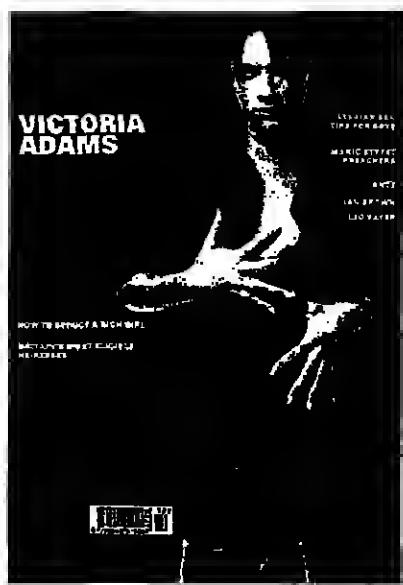
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GALIAN

Furious Betty finally turns the loudmouth down

I combine," wrote John Hayes (C. S. Holland & The Deepings) "passionate beliefs, values and loyalties with an ability to laugh — even at myself."

Yesterday at Prime Minister's Questions, fate sent Mr Hayes a wonderful opportunity to laugh at himself. Let us hope he took it. Everyone else did.

Nobody has ever called Hayes a diplomat. Roth's *New MPs of '97* cites his hatred for "ardent, strident feminists" — leaving him with few allies at a young political activist at university. "You could have

counted the people on campus more unpopular than myself on the fingers of a thalidomide's hand," remarked this sensitive political thinker, adding, at one stroke, a whole new lobby to the ranks of those he has offended.

The years have not mellowed him. He came along to PM's Questions yesterday to barrack Tony Blair, which he decided to do standing up. The position he chose was courageous: about two yards from Madam Speaker's left ear, standing with his back to a wall by her Chair, just visible in one corner of her field



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

of vision. MPs are not supposed to barrack from any position, but to do so standing up adds hugely to the crime because no Member is allowed to join in the debate without a seat in the Chamber.

This was an exceptionally subdued Question time. Unemployment figures showed a rise and the Prime Minister was on his back foot, parrying

William Hague's attack on the "Closed List" system for European elections. Few seriously defended this and Blair, fundamentally honest, sounded miserably in the attempt.

Behind him sat the gloomiest and quietest Government backbenches I can remember since the election. In short, this was not the time when a loud Tory voice, bawling inaudibly from the back, was called

for. So Hayes bawled. Every time the Prime Minister spoke he seemed to be bawling. None of us could hear a word of what he said — but perhaps "word" and "said" flatter Mr Hayes's contribution to the debate. All we could see was this tubby, beefy, heavily-fowelled rugby half-back absolutely infuriating Betty Boothroyd with the racket he was making.

She put up with it for almost all of the half-hour session. Then her patience snapped.

It happened as Tony Blair was trying to answer the To-

peccially from that seatless position? — and, what's more, "this has gone on throughout".

Hayes looked abject. At first he tried not to return her Gorgon gaze, as though, if he steadfastly looked away she might decide she must be addressing someone else. But in the end he was forced by her tone to look her, cowering in the eye. She threatened to "name" him if he ever did it again. He slunk out. Upstairs in the Press Gallery the hiss of "who was that guy?" could be heard everywhere. At first few knew. We know now.

Labour to press ahead on second pensions

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR signalled yesterday that the Government will press ahead with compulsory second pensions as he stressed that there would have to be "fundamental reform" of retirement provision.

Legislation on pensions is now likely to be included in the Queen's Speech later this month, although no final decision has yet been taken on the speed of the reforms.

The Welfare Reform Bill is expected to include changes to disability benefits, compulsory job interviews for dole claimants and elements of pension reform. A Green Paper on pensions will be published shortly with the Welfare Bill introduced in the spring.

The Prime Minister, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary are trying to reach agreement over reform. Mr Blair told MPs during Question Time in the Commons that proposals to reform pensions would be published in due course but it was important "to make sure that it is right for all categories of pensioner". The three options now being considered are full compulsion — requiring everyone in work, who does not have an occupational or personal scheme, to take out a second stakeholder pension; a voluntary second pension scheme; or requiring those above a specified income to take out a second pension.

The third option is the front-runner at the Social Security Department. Under plans being drawn up by Mr Darling all those earning above about £12,000 would have to put a percentage of their salary into a second "stakeholder" pension. The money would probably be taken directly from pay.

Whitehall sources have suggested that the payments could be 6 to 8 per cent of salary. But those on higher incomes would not be expected to pay 8 per cent on the whole of their salary. It is likely that everyone would have to pay a set percentage on the first, say, £20,000 of their income.

Party rules put Blair in battle on three fronts

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair was last night bawling on three fronts to prevent his grip on the party spurning the most serious internal unrest since he became leader.

Ken Livingstone vowed to pursue his campaign to become London's first directly elected Mayor after the Labour hierarchy moved to prevent him standing as the party's official candidate. The Brent East MP said he would drag the issue out for months, threatening to plunge the London Labour Party into the kind of bitter in-fighting that marred the 1980s.

In Scotland Dennis Canavan, the veteran left-wing MP, announced that he planned to stand as an independent candidate for the Scottish parliament after being spurned by Labour's selection procedure. Mr Canavan hit out at "Stalinist" tactics used by the leadership to exclude all but the ultra-loyal. He faces certain expulsion if he goes ahead.

In Wales, party chiefs will today try again to persuade Rhodri Morgan to stand aside and allow Alan Michael, the Welsh Secretary, to run unopposed as Labour's candidate for first secretary.

Mr Blair's official spokesman defended the tight control

of candidate selection, ranging across next year's elections for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and European Parliament, as well as the London Mayoral contest in May 2000, as a sign of professionalism.

He said: "Labour suffered for years and years and years while in opposition and one of the reasons we were in opposition was lack of discipline and communication."

But the series of events allowed the Opposition to renew charges that the Labour leadership was beset by a "control-freak" mentality.

Gillian Shephard, the Shadow environment secretary, said the issues showed Labour was afraid of the democratic process. "The People's Party doesn't trust its own people to select its candidates," she said.

Mr Livingstone said he needed an initial £20,000 to mail the party's 69,000 London members and launch a write-in campaign. The tactic is well established in America, allowing outsiders to break in to a presidential race during primary elections.

Two polls carried out yesterday after the London Regional Board's decision to subject would-be candidates to a selection panel, seen as a "stop

Ken" clause, gave Mr Livingstone overwhelming support.

Of 42 constituency party secretaries in the capital, 29 told the BBC he should be allowed on the shortlist. Only three said he should not.

In a telephone poll conducted by Carlton TV's *London Tonight* programme, 6,010 callers said Mr Livingstone should be allowed to stand, and 629 against.

Mr Blair denied that Mr Canavan had been unfairly treated. "I am not dictating. I am just saying there are rules in the party and they apply to Dennis Canavan in the same way they apply to Tony Blair."

Mr Canavan, who voted last night against the Government over the Scotland Bill, said he had originally considered taking legal action, but decided to refer the matter to a "higher court" — the voters in his Falkirk West constituency.

In Cardiff today, Mr Morgan will again make clear he intends to fight for election as Labour's candidate to be first minister in the Welsh assembly. His stance will almost certainly mean the contest between him, Mr Michael and Wayne David, the Welsh MEP, will drag well into next year.



'Dedham Lock and Mill' and, below left, 'Sketch for Valley Farm'. The V&A has "lost" sketches for the paintings



£1m sketches stolen

Continued from Page 1

entered the area. He said there had been "very few" thefts in recent years. This year, a 2½-high 18th-century vase was stolen from the display area and, after the arrest of a couple, was returned to the museum. Staff had failed at first to notice that it had vanished.

Dr Borg also mentioned a Japanese print taken in what he called a "casual theft". In 1992, a 16th-century Medici casket and a 17th-century alabaster piece were stolen from the galleries during open hours.

The two Constables were among 415 works donated to the V&A by Constable's daughter, Isabel, in 1888. She

had wanted the entire contents of his studio to go to the museum.

Timothy Stevens, V&A assistant director of collections, said: "Dedham Lock is particularly important to us as we have the big picture to which it is related. There are interesting changes between the sketch and the finished work." Of the theft, he said that they have more than four million objects to keep track of and seven miles of galleries to patrol.

With commercial banks installing security to vie with Fort Knox, museums and galleries have seemed like soft targets for robbers. Public collections lack adequate funding for essentials such as security, and thefts are deeply embarrassing for them.

The watchdog quite ready to empty her dustbin in public

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A WOMAN who says she is good at spotting liars is to become the new ethical watchdog for MPs.

Elizabeth Filkin, 58, has been selected to take over as the new Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards to replace Sir Gordon Downey, who is retiring at the end of the month, aged 70.

The "nursery world" of Westminster might seem a fitting job for a former social worker and child care expert who has also written several academic books about dealing with errant charges.

Next week MPs will be formally asked to approve her appointment to a three-year contract from next February to the four-day £76,576-a-year post. The job involves monitoring the register of members' interests, giving advice to MPs on questions of propriety, assisting new MPs with queries about their conduct and ethics, and investigating complaints against MPs.

For the past five years she has gained a fearsome reputation as an intrepid investigator of complaints made against the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the Contributions Agency.

Miss Filkin, in an interview with *The Times* yesterday, was clearly pinning her hopes on the new job — she would even be able to work from her home just south of Westminster bridge, next to the Houses of Parliament.

One of the conditions of her appointment, however, is that she must give up some lucra-

tive non-executive directorships with the Britannia Building Society, Hay Management Consultants and the computer firm, Logica.

Miss Filkin survived a grilling 55-minute interview with the Parliamentary Commission, headed by the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, ten days ago. She admitted last night it had been an ordeal and had covered questions about every area of her life.

She was well aware that the post required someone of

"squeaky clean character" and said last night that she would not be afraid to "turn her dustbin upside down in public".

She added however: "I am aware however that all of us can make mistakes and look foolish. One can always reflect on how things could have been done better."

Miss Filkin, a mother of three daughters — two are public servants, a third is at university — had an amicable divorce from her father, Geoffrey Filkin, a senior local government official, four years ago.

Miss Filkin married Michael Honey, chief executive of the London Ambulance Service, two years ago. Asked what qualities had made her the favourite, she said: "I hope that I am absolutely independent, I am absolutely tough and straight. I hope that I am absolutely fair even if that can sometimes be unpopular. I hope I know how human beings behave by now."



Filkin: aware she needed a "squeaky clean character"

Details of Diana tribute unveiled

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN last night announced details of the plans for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Garden which has been scaled down following local opposition to the original plans.

He confirmed that the original proposal for a 2½ acre site-cuscing £10million had been replaced by a more understated scheme involving a smaller garden and a memorial walk.

The Chancellor, who is chair of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee, said the most significant part of the memorial was to be a walkway connecting four of London's great parks.

"This will be one of the most magnificent urban parkland walks in the world," said Mr Brown suggesting it

should be established to celebrate the life of Diana.

Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Green Park and St James' Park will be connected in a figure of eight with Hyde Park in the Centre.

"The walk, which will now be the centrepiece of the memorial garden idea won't focus so much on Kensington Gardens any more," said a Treasury spokesman.

"What worried many residents was the idea that thousands would turn up to start the walk in Kensington Gardens and come back to finish it, but this way, it can be started and finished at any point."

The Chancellor also set out plans for Kensington Gardens with improvements for the children's playground.

Former minister voices bug fears

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

DR David Clark, a former Cabinet Minister, yesterday warned that many vital national services such as electricity, gas, water and telecommunications could be disrupted by the millennium computer bug unless urgent action was taken.

Since being sacked by Tony Blair last summer, Dr Clark emphasised that ministers did not have the powers to compel many wider public services, such as utility companies, to make the necessary plans.

But he warned NHS bosses, local authority and other public utility chiefs that they could be personally liable for many injuries or losses caused by failures in their systems.

Dr Clark also called on the Government to change its approach for the training of 20,000 bug-busters to go in to companies and other public organisations to give advice.

He believed only a few hundred people had already been trained and suggested that retired and former computer experts should be recruited by the Government to go into firms.

Dr Clark — who was former Minister responsible for raising awareness of the bug — was backing a new report from Taskforce 2000 which showed that costs to tackle the bug in central Government departments were likely to escalate from about £2 to £3 billion to £8 billion. Their analysis also showed that many departments were falling behind their deadlines.

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Labour to press ahead on second pensions

Premature baby born after being stabbed in the womb

Paul Wilkinson reports on the pregnant woman who was attacked on her way to an ante-natal clinic

A BABY was delivered prematurely by surgeons after twice being stabbed in the womb during a knife attack on his mother yesterday. Last night doctors who carried out an emergency caesarean section within minutes of the attack said that Amanda Hunter, 20, and her 7lb son, who was due to be born in two weeks, were out of danger. Ms Hunter was on her way to an ante-natal clinic with a friend when she was attacked in the grounds of Sunderland Royal Infirmary. She had five wounds, two of which penetrated her uterus, cutting her unborn child on the buttock. A man fled when two hospital security guards intervened, but he was caught after a chase. Paramedics already on the scene

at the nearby casualty unit gave the woman emergency aid before medical staff took her to an operating theatre. Kim Hinshaw, the consultant obstetrician who delivered the baby with a team of 12, said: "The baby had been stabbed twice in the bottom and they were more than superficial wounds. I can say no more than that but he is doing fine. We sutured the baby out first. He was out within about ten minutes of going into theatre. Both mother and baby are stable now." Detective Chief Inspector Dave Jackson, of Sunderland police, said: "This is a terrible incident but I would like to assure people attend-

ing the hospital that there is no risk to anyone else. I would like to commend the actions of the hospital staff who showed great courage in detaining the assailant at great risk to themselves. "It's good news that both mother and child are doing well. We hope they continue to make good progress." David Parkins, the hospital's accident and emergency consultant, said: "The mother came in with a total of five stab wounds, with a major stab wound to her abdomen. Part of her abdomen was protruding. The wound to the abdomen went right through to her uterus and the baby has a nick in his buttocks. "She was conscious and talking to us but she also had a puncture of the right lung which gave cause for serious concern. We activated our trauma team and brought in an obstetrician and general surgeon and notified theatre. She was then taken for an urgent caesarean section birth. That all happened within half an hour of her first arriving. At one stage we had about ten people working on her in resuscitation." A surgeon also dealt with her stab wounds during the two-hour operation.

Mr Parkins said: "The baby is fine. He is in a special care baby unit at the moment." The two hospital security guards are Colin Boyd, 43, and John Atkinson, 39. Mr Boyd wrestled the man to the ground after chasing him for nearly 200 yards. He said: "A friend of the woman rushed from outside into the corridor and said someone was trying to kill her friend. It looked as if someone was punching her in the stomach. Then I saw the blade in his hand and I could see he was thrusting it into his stomach. "I shouted 'Hey what are you doing?' He stopped and looked at us then he started running away. A couple of times he turned and waved his knife at us. He then turned and started running again and I decided I had to give it a go and I thought to myself 'It's now or never'. I started running faster and jumped on his back and pulled him down. I didn't think of the danger at the time." A man aged 25, who is known to the victim, was arrested and treated for a minor knife wound suffered as he was tackled by the security staff. Ms Hunter's friend, Suzanne Steel, 22, said they were walking to the hospital when the man ap-

proached them. "He suddenly started running towards us. He had been waiting for her. He grabbed her and repeatedly knifed her in the stomach. I screamed and ran for help, he had her round the throat. "We had tried to get away, but being pregnant she didn't get far from him. I got help and the security guards came out and chased him away. It was awful. I was terrified for Amanda and the baby - he was like a raving lunatic." She added: "Amanda remembers clearly what happened. She is very frightened. She hasn't seen the baby yet. He was born at 12.11 and weighs 7lbs. She has a photograph of the baby and has named him Bailey."

CPS drops drugs action against teacher

By Paul Wilkinson

A PRIMARY school deputy headmistress accused of laundering drugs money spoke yesterday of her ten-month ordeal after walking free from court. Charges against Patricia Taylor were dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service when she appeared before magistrates this week. Four men and a woman from the South of England were committed for trial on laundering and conspiracy charges relating to a £25 drugs seizure by Customs. Mrs Taylor, 52, who has been suspended from her post at Blackgates Junior School in Morley, near Leeds, said was looking forward to getting back to the classroom. "I am elated by the verdict," she said. "But it's hard to describe how it's been. It's been an awful year. There's been a lot of rumour because of my job. I never thought about if I would be sent to jail. I spent a night in cells after I was charged, which gave me a taste of how it might be." Mrs Taylor's nightmare began in January when Customs and Excise officers raided the home she shares with her husband Colin, also 52, in Gomersal, near Bradford, West Yorkshire. Her son, Kieran Briggs, was linked to a gang caught allegedly bringing cocaine

through the Channel Tunnel hidden in the wheels of a Land Rover. Customs officers began probing a £42,000 present from Mr Briggs, 31, which she believed had come from the kitchen business he had sold to finance a world tour. Mrs Taylor was arrested in July, but released pending further investigations. She was formally charged in September with money laundering and spent a night in custody before appearing before magistrates in Wetherby, West Yorkshire. Her son is still being pursued by police in connection with the smuggling ring and is thought to be abroad. Mrs Taylor, who faced up to



Patricia Taylor: cleared of drugs charges

14 years in jail if convicted, said: "Things got pretty grim in January when we discovered Kieran might be involved in this smuggling operation. He said he was going off for a year, it was something he'd always wanted to do. We honestly don't know where he is. He was ringing us from South America and telling us he was in Thailand. "We're worried for him, we don't know what he's doing or who he's with. He's made it worse by not coming forward. He phoned me on my birthday in June and I told him I had a number he should ring, but he didn't want it." Mrs Taylor last saw him in August 1997 when he told them he was going to travel to the Far East and Australia. But they later discovered he had gone to South America. She was full of praise for her colleagues. "They have been really supportive. The people who matter have stood by me. I can't blame some people for being embarrassed to talk to me, but now I just want to go back. I've missed the children." Andrew Hill, her solicitor, said: "It was the most awful situation for her because all the way along I had told the Customs and Excise officers there wasn't a scrap of meaningful evidence against her."



Clare Bear yesterday. Before her accident she planned to become a personal trainer

Wife crippled in crash sues husband and wins £1.5m

By Susie Steiner

A FITNESS instructor who was crippled by her fiancé's dangerous driving won £1.5 million in damages yesterday. Clare Bear, 37, became engaged to Alex Bear, a 34-year-old army sergeant, on the day of the accident that paralysed her in 1994. The couple went on to marry six months later. After yesterday's High Court hearing, she expressed disappointment at the sum, to be paid by her husband's insurers. She had originally claimed about £2.6 million. "I feel angry," she said. "This is going to put extra pressure on our marriage." She and her husband had fought a difficult battle to sustain their relationship in the face of emotional turmoil, she said. "There was a lot of love between us before the accident and I carried us through. I am disabled, but he is crippled by guilt. When something goes wrong with the care regime, he is the first person I blame. It's very difficult to love someone and hate them at the same time." The couple were driving into Plymouth town centre in the week after Christmas 1994

when Mr Bear took a corner "at excessive speed" and crashed the car. Mrs Bear had been planning to start a business as a personal trainer and would run for an hour each day. She also competed in half-marathons. The pair planned to have children immediately after marrying. The crash, however, left her with severe spinal cord injuries that caused paralysis in both legs and her left arm. She is unable to wash or comb her hair and needs constant care. Mr Bear, who was about to be posted to Bosnia when the crash happened, was not injured. He later pleaded guilty to dangerous driving. "In the early days I didn't want to marry him at all," Mrs Bear said. "He was very persistent." The couple, who live in Exeter, married while Mrs Bear was a patient at a spinal injuries unit. Mr Bear is now permanently posted in Britain and they still hope to have children. The £1.5 million settlement, plus substantial costs, was agreed with Mr Bear's insurers, the Norwich Union.

'I am disabled, but he is crippled by guilt'

Surgeon's daughter took overdose Friend heard suicide on phone

By Paul Wilkinson

THE teenage daughter of one of Britain's leading transplant surgeons has died after taking a drugs overdose. John Dark and his wife, Sue, were yesterday trying to come to terms with the death of their "talented and beautiful" daughter Tessa, 16. Mr Dark is a senior heart surgeon at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, one of the country's foremost transplant centres. Sixth-form classmates at Tessa's private school have been offered counselling to help them to cope with their grief after learning of her death. Prayers for her were said yesterday during morning assembly at the £4,000-a-year Dame Allen's School in Newcastle where David Welsh, her headmaster, described her as "bright and talented". The

head of her previous school recalled her as being "quiet, calm" and "very beautiful". Mr and Mrs Dark and their son Tom were being comforted by relatives at their home in the smart Newcastle suburb of Gosforth yesterday. On Monday last week paramedics had taken the teenager from the house to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle where she was placed in intensive care, but her condition deteriorated and she died on Friday. Officers from Northumbria Police are waiting for the results of tests to discover how Tessa died, but it is thought she took an overdose of "an over-the-counter remedy". Staff at the Dame Allen school were anxious to point out that Tessa had not taken "recreational" drugs. An inquest

has been opened and adjourned by David Mitford, the Newcastle coroner. Mr Welsh said: "Tessa was a bright and talented sixth-former who had lots of interests and lots of friends here. Her friends and staff at the school are supporting both Tessa's family and each other. Governors, staff and pupils are all thinking of the family and our prayers go out to them at this very difficult time." Tessa had been studying for A levels in art, geography, history and politics. She had moved to Dame Allen's after studying at the Central High School in Jesmond, Newcastle, until she was 13. Angela Chapman, the head there, said she still had many friends at the school who were devastated by her death. Many would attend her funeral in Gosforth today.

A MAN listened on his mobile phone as his best friend killed himself in his fume-filled car. Although the two were five miles apart they shared a last drink together over the phone before the exhaust gases from Ronald Bartlett's Porsche finally overcame him. A passer-by who wrenched open the door found the phone still connected and Martin Blevins anxiously calling out to his dying friend. Mr Bartlett, an oil rig worker, committed suicide after he was left by his girlfriend, Helen Cunningham, an inquest in North Shields, North Tyneside, was told. He was distraught to learn that she had

Inquest is told how jilted man made one last call before killing himself in his car, reports Paul Wilkinson

aborted his baby after an affair with another man. On the evening of March 28 she had hung up on him and switched off her mobile phone while he pleaded for a reconciliation. Mr Bartlett, from North Shields, then decided to kill himself and rang his friend to say a final farewell. Mr Blevins told the hearing: "He told me he was parked somewhere but he didn't tell me where. He said he was go-

ing to have a drink. Then we went through the scenario: how he felt and why he felt he had to do certain things. I was hoping people would pass by and get a clue as to what was going on. "Then he just said, 'Right, I'm going to start the engine.' I tried to keep him talking but could hear the car exhaust noise coming into the car. I just kept talking to him. I said there was no reason." Mr Bar-

tlett was found dead in his car in a lane outside Earsdon, near Whitley Bay. The inquest was told that Miss Cunningham had received numerous calls from Mr Bartlett at her home in North Shields that night, begging her to take him back. She told the hearing: "He told me he was going out in the car and he would not be coming back. He had made threats before that he would take his own life and I took it that he meant it. I phoned the police because I was concerned he would do something." Brian Gallon, the North Tyneside coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.



PARADISE

Minister Ig fears

Millions observe the two-minute silence

THE first chime of eleven was the signal for Britain to come to a brief standstill yesterday as millions marked the moment that the guns fell silent 80 years ago.

Shop doors were closed, fountains turned off and buses and taxis pulled over in a national display of remembrance not seen for many years.

Across the nation, services were held at hundreds of war memorials, but it was the brief respite from the bustle of daily life which many found most poignant. In Central London tourists, who had not appreciated the significance of the hour, were nonplussed as traffic suddenly came to a halt. At the Old Bailey trials were halted.

In parks within earshot of Big Ben, the bells stopped hundreds in their tracks. Builders working on the extension to the Jubilee Tube line removed their hard hats and stood to attention.

At Heathrow airport, baggage belts were stopped at 11am and Concorde was rescheduled by 45 minutes so the roar of its four engines would not interrupt the two minutes' silence. All aircraft were banned from starting their engines or taxiing and the Last Post was played across the loudspeaker system.

Jean Bilous, a tourist from North Carolina, was among those who joined the tribute in London. "We just don't have anything like this in the States," she said. "That is a shame because it was so moving."

Traffic stopped, aeroplanes waited and shoppers stood in the aisles,

report Adrian Lee and John Young

In Edinburgh, a single canon shot from the castle was the sign for the capital to fall quiet. At the city's war memorial an elderly woman's sobs were the only sound. Angus Stewart, 89, who fought in the Second World War said he was pleasantly surprised by how many young people in the city observed the tribute.

At Winchester Crown Court, prisoners stood in the dock with their heads bowed as they joined judges and barristers during the silence.

In Bristol, cash registers and public address systems were turned off as shoppers at the Cribbs Causeway mall stopped to remember. At the Clifton suspension bridge, workers joined the tribute.

In Glasgow, only the hum of traffic could be heard as 150 ex-servicemen gathered in George Square. Pubs opened late.

Passengers at Piccadilly railway station in Manchester were requested by announcers to pause. In Newcastle upon Tyne shoppers stood, heads bowed, in the streets. One store turned off its Christmas display.

In Leeds, gunfire signalled the start of the silence and traffic was stopped while 500 people, including war veterans, gathered at the city's Cenotaph.

Similar ceremonies were held at war memorials throughout Northern Ireland. In Belfast city centre Noel Stranix, 72, stood to remember his father, Samuel, who survived the Battle of the Somme. As he saluted the dead, a few moments past 11am, he noticed a traffic warden quietly stick a ticket on a parked car.

Workers at the Japanese-owned Honda car plant in Swindon, which employs more than 3,000 people, downed tools for two minutes as their tribute.

No clocks chimed or bugles blew but at 11 o'clock an almost total hush fell upon the busy aisles of Tesco in Hammersmith, West London. An announcement on the public address system invited customers to observe the two-minute silence and asked them to be patient if the counter staff also wished to participate.

The injunction was unnecessary. With one accord the tills stopped beeping and customers, young and old, stood silent and motionless.

As normal business resumed, people seemed overwhelmingly pleased that the traditional observance had been restored. Robert Green, who served briefly in the Royal Artillery in the 1960s, said that those who died in the

wars, and particularly in the Holocaust, should never be forgotten.

Annabel High, a young mother with a small daughter perched on her trolley, said she thought it was a great idea. "We must go on remembering the sacrifices those people made. Without them I would not be here today and nor would she."

George Parsons said: "I think it's a really good thing that they've brought it back. I was a bus conductor years ago, and I remember when the buses used to stop and the drivers would get out and stand to attention by the side of the road. I was in London as a child during the Blitz and, although I know youngsters today see things differently and can't really appreciate what people went through in those days, it does no harm to try to get them interested."

A young couple, Kass and Victoria Jones, were as delighted as their elders that the tradition had been restored. The two-minute silence was a time for reflection on the part of people who knew something of what had happened, and might also persuade those who knew little or nothing to find out more, Mr Jones said.

His wife agreed. "If you have young kids with you, and everyone suddenly stops in silence, they will ask what is going on. Mum will explain and perhaps the child will realise it's something important."

Letters, page 25



Time to remember: staff and passengers in silent tribute yesterday at York station

Schröder 'too busy' to go to France

GERHARD Schröder, the German Chancellor, was too busy to commemorate the end of the World War One yesterday, but that did not mean the historic import of the Armistice was lost on Germany, his spokesman said.

The Chancellor's absence from ceremonies in France had raised eyebrows within Germany and abroad. But his spokesman, Uwe-Karsten Heye, said the Chancellor's hectic schedule had prevented him from being involved.

"The Chancellor just couldn't go," Herr Heye said. He noted that the Chancellor had made a major policy speech to Parliament.

Although the German media give much coverage to Armistice commemorations elsewhere, there are no large ceremonies in Germany itself.

The spokesman said the Chancellor's failure to lay a wreath at the tomb of Poland's Unknown Soldier during a one-day visit to Warsaw last week was also a question of time. He said however that more of a gesture could be made in future.

In Cologne the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month means something different: carnival season began yesterday in Germany, eleven being the carnival "magic number". Over 10,000 people, many dressed up as "Narren", or fools, crowded the old market in Rhineland's main city, Cologne, to kick off the celebrations.

Statesmen launch appeal to honour Lloyd George

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE former Prime Ministers helped yesterday to launch a campaign to honour David Lloyd George with a statue in Parliament Square.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, Sir Edward Heath and John Major united to pay tribute to their predecessor, who announced the end of the First World War to the Commons 80 years ago yesterday.

The event was timed to coincide with yesterday's Armistice Day commemorations. But campaigners want to reflect the fiery orator's record as a social reformer as much as his role in bringing an end to the Great War.

The Liberal Prime Minister was credited with shaping much of the 20th century after his "People's Budget" in 1909 led to the Old Age Pension.

Organisers of the David Lloyd George Statue Appeal Trust need to raise £400,000 to erect a 10ft-high bronze statue to stand opposite Sir Winston Churchill, one of the Lloyd George's oldest friends. It would join the other nine statues of politicians ringing the square opposite the Palace of Westminster, including Churchill, Disraeli and Oliver Cromwell.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, the former Labour leader of the Opposition in the Lords and the appeal's chairman, said: "He was the British



Lloyd George helped to bring the war to an end

statesman who did most to make victory possible in the Great War and we should also remember him as a social reformer who introduced measures which were the real foundation of our modern welfare state."

However, recent historians have questioned whether Lloyd George secured victory in 1918 by bolstering the Allied Command. Some suggest he may have prolonged the conflict by failing to come up with a coherent strategy to defeat the German army.

Statues of Lloyd George, who was in Downing Street from 1916 to 1923 and died in 1945, stand in Cardiff, Caernarfon and in the Members' Lobby immediately outside the Commons chamber.

The present Lord Lloyd George, the 3rd earl and grandson of the former Prime Minister, said: "For a long time my grandfather was not appreciated, but now it looks like his legacy will finally be properly remembered."

Veteran dies before receiving medal

THE last Senegalese rifleman known to have fought in the First World War, Aboulaye N'Daye, died a day before he was due to be decorated during Armistice Day commemorations, the French Embassy said yesterday. He was 104.

N'Daye, believed to have been the oldest survivor of French West African forces who fought in Europe, died of an apparent heart attack on Tuesday in his village of Thiow where he was to receive the Legion of Honour medal.

He served in the Tirailleurs Senegalais and was to receive the decoration to mark the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

In the village, the veteran, who was wounded in the head during the war and was very hard of hearing but was otherwise still fit and surrounded by great-grandchildren, had in September greeted the news of the promised award with little enthusiasm. He said: "I would have preferred help to ensure my survival."

N'Daye received a veteran's pension and injury benefit of just over £100 a year. He was unaware that he was probably the last alive of the 400,000 Senegalese rifleman who joined up or were forcibly recruited across sub-Saharan Africa to fight for colonial France against the Germans.

He was forced to enlist at 20 to ensure the release of his uncle, whom the authorities had taken hostage. He fought in what he two months ago called the "bitter battles" of Verdun, the Dardanelles, and the Somme. He was struck in the head by two bullets, but his helmet saved his life.

Honduras Emergency Appeal

International Care & Relief (ICR) has received an urgent request from the Honduran Ambassador for emergency relief supplies in the aftermath of the terrible disaster that has swept over Central America.

Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras last week leaving 5,273 dead and 11,083 missing. Over 2 million people have lost their homes. Entire communities have been wiped out and bridges have been destroyed. 70% of staple crops have gone.

Diseases such as cholera, typhoid, malaria and dengue fever are in danger of becoming endemic as a result of stagnant water where bodies still remain.

ICR's Emergency Appeal Fund needs your donations as quickly as possible so that we can assist relief organisations on the ground to meet the overwhelming plight of so many desperate people.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998

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Chirac joins Churchill.

Side by side, in tribute to the fallen



United we stand: President McAleese and the Queen waiting to lay their wreaths yesterday at the foot of the Irish Peace Tower in Messines. They were watched by 1,500 guests from all over Ireland

Soldiers fought for Irish cause

By AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET PHELAN went to Mass in Kilkenny yesterday to remember her brother, an Irish soldier killed 82 years ago fighting on the Somme.

Mrs Phelan remains proud of him, despite attempts by successive generations of Irish people to wipe out the memory of the men who fought with the British Army in Europe while Ireland was battling for independence.

Like thousands of young idealistic Irishmen, her brother, Thomas Duggan, joined the 7th East Lancashire Division in 1915 convinced he was helping to secure independence for Ireland. He believed that Britain would give Ireland its freedom at the end of the war in thanks for its efforts.

"He was a nationalist. We all were, and Tommy believed that if he joined up it would help Ireland break free of England", Mrs Phelan, 95, said.

But rebellion erupted across Ireland as its sons fought in Flanders. The Easter Rising of 1916 made heroes of the rebels and traitors of the Irish soldiers serving with the British. Mr Duggan returned to his home in Kilkenny suffering from an eye injury and was ordered to the local English barracks to fight the rebels.

He returned to Europe and was killed by sniper fire in November 1916, one of at least 35,000 Irish soldiers to die. Mrs Phelan was delighted yesterday to see President McAleese unveil the Celtic tower in Flanders. "It is wonderful as it closes the chapter on a bleak past that started out full of hope and humanity but ended in pathos."

Alan Hamilton reports from Messines in Belgium

FOR the first time in history, a British monarch and an Irish president stood side by side on a public occasion yesterday. And for the first time, the Irish Republic acknowledged and honoured its own who fought and fell for the British Crown in the First World War.

Together, the Queen and President Mary McAleese laid wreaths at the newly built Irish Peace Tower, a 109-foot stone pencil on top of a small hump in the endless flat lands of Flanders, watched by 1,500 guests from all corners of Ireland, and from all shades of the island's politics and religions.

From David Trimble to the Chief Rabbi of Ireland they stood, for once united, for a brief inter-denominational service and a minute of silence that spoke volumes of guilt, not only for 50,000 Irishmen who died in the service of King George V, but for the killing that has gone on since, beginning with those survivors who went home from the trenches only to be murdered as traitors in their own Irish homes.

In the early days of the war, the men of the Protestant 36th Ulster Division were kept well apart from the mainly Catholic 16th Irish Division lest they wore at each other's throats. But on the first day of the Somme in 1916, the Ulster men were so depleted that what remained of their division was merged with the 16th Irish Protestant and Catholic

fought shoulder to shoulder to recapture the ridge at Messines, where the memorial now stands. It fights the perceived wrong of the Ulster Tower at Thiépval Ridge at the Somme, which is dedicated solely to the memory of the Northern Irish.

The place and the day were heavy with symbolism. The tower is built of stones reclaimed from an old work house in Mullingar, County Westmeath, built to house the starving poor of the potato famines. It has a high window positioned, in the manner of Stone Henge, to catch the sun on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month.

The tower is the result of a private initiative by two individuals, Paddy Harte, from Co Donegal in the Republic, and Glen Barr from Belfast. Their cross-border charitable trust has built the memorial entirely from private subscription. It is as much about present-day reconciliation as about the events of 1917.

The Queen and President McAleese walked together from the gate of the little park to the base of the memorial, both dressed in black, talking amiably, and accompanied by King Albert of the Belgians and Queen Paola, who perhaps mistakenly had chosen to wear brown.

But for all the attempts at

reconciliation, the divisions of history still showed. The Queen wore a poppy on her wrist. President McAleese wore none. The Queen's wreath was of traditional red poppies; the Irish wreath was plain black, decorated only with a ribbon in the colours of the Irish Tricolour. The poppy was long regarded as a badge of imperialism in the Republic.

Mr Harte and Mr Barr, the moving forces behind the project, recited a prayer together. "Collectively we apologise for the terrible deeds we have done to each other and seek forgiveness." Then they too laid a wreath, helped by two Irish Guards in full scarlet tunic and bearskin.

President and Queen stood

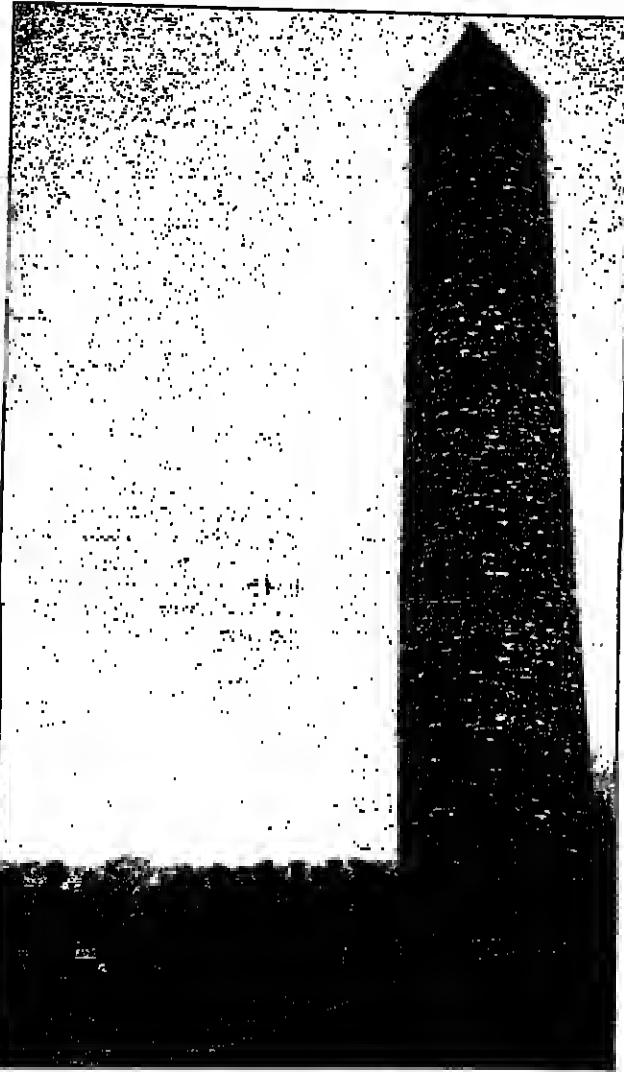
together with the King and Queen of the Belgians for the minute's silence, their faces lit by the slanting sun of a perfect autumn afternoon. Around them, many hundreds of children, grandchildren and relatives of fallen Irishmen, many proudly wearing the medals of their dead forefathers, stood silently. As the bugle call of Reveille broke the silence, the party turned and walked slowly past the crowded stands. The President walked with King Albert, leaving the Queen several paces behind.

But at the gate the two women exchanged a brief handshake and a smile. Mrs McAleese thanked the Queen for accepting her invitation to attend, and the crowd were left

to muse on whether Ireland's bloody history really was over, and whether the time is approaching when the Queen of the United Kingdom may make a state visit to Dublin for the first time since 1911.

Mr Trimble, who apologised for the unavoidable absence of his deputy, Seamus Mallon, was guardedly hopeful. "This is the first time that the Irish Republic has been associated with us in an act of remembrance. I think it's a very positive thing, as significant as the formation of the British-Irish Council. It will help to get rid of the anti-British element in Irish culture."

What was intended as a remembrance of those who died came, for a moment, perilously close to becoming a political event. But at least no-one mentioned decommissioning.



The tower: catches the light at 11am on November 11

Chirac joins Queen to praise Churchill, 'spirit of Britain'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Queen was joined by President Chirac in Paris yesterday in paying tribute to Churchill's wartime role. The French leader praised him as the embodiment of Britain's "fighting spirit" and a vital ally of France in her darkest hours.

As the Queen unveiled a statue of Sir Winston near the Seine, she recalled in a moving speech delivered alternately in French and English the "four long, terrible years" of the First World War, as well as Churchill's role in the "second great conflict that had torn the heart of Europe". The ceremony in the Avenue Winston Churchill, off the Champs-Élysées, commemorated the alliance between Britain and France in both wars.

M Chirac recalled that exactly 54 years ago the British Prime Minister, clad in the greatcoat depicted in his statue, strode down the Champs-Élysées with General de Gaulle, to the deafening cheers of Parisians newly liberated from the Nazis.

"This homage is an opportunity for the French to express our gratitude towards a man whose struggle is identified with the cause of liberty and human dignity, as well as the deep solidarity which unites France and Great Britain, then and now," he said.

The audience included scores of French and British dignitaries and members of the Churchill family. Earlier in the day, 80 years to the minute after the war came to

an end, Queen and President laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, one of 1.35 million French soldiers killed in the war, in a solemn ceremony beneath Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe.

Wearing the blue of cornflowers, France's equivalent of the poppy, the Queen laid a wreath of 400 silk poppies bearing the inscription: "In Memory of the Glorious Dead".

General Maurice Bourgeois, at 101 years one of a handful of French veterans surviving from the first war, spoke a few words to the Queen as she passed beneath the arch. He was 17 when he joined up, a month after war was declared, and 21 when he was wounded for a second time, in March 1918, and taken prisoner.

The young soldier was in a German prison camp when the end of the war was de-

clared. "I remember the Armistice with great joy," he said. "But I saw so many fall. I lost half my friends in the Great War."

The Queen spoke of the immense sacrifices and the "price of glory" as she recalled the 50,000 British soldiers killed or wounded in the battle of the Somme and the quarter of a million French and German soldiers who perished in the carnage at Verdun.

The statue of Sir Winston, created by sculptor Jean Carot, was erected to match that of General de Gaulle unveiled in London five years ago by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. "We shall never surrender" reads the inscription beneath the 10 ft bronze statue.

The Queen said that Churchill, her first Prime Minister, "who guided me with such wisdom and humour through the earliest years of my reign", had had a sometimes difficult

relationship with General de Gaulle but would have been delighted with the honour bestowed by France, a country he "loved all his life".

"With resonant voice, telling phrase and twinkling eye, he would have approved of this homage to our history which meant so much to him," she said.

Churchill is only the second Briton to be considered worthy of the honour of a Paris statue. The first was Edward VII, of whom a statue was erected in recognition of his efforts in building up Anglo-French understanding at the beginning of the century.

Before lunch at the Elysée Palace, the Queen and President Chirac laid a wreath at the statue of George Clemenceau, the French hero of the Great War, as crowds watched a military parade that included First World War tanks, horse-drawn field artillery and five of the 5,000 taxis that were requisitioned to drive troops to the front to face the German offensive on the Marne.

Yesterday marked the last significant anniversary that will be attended by those who took part in the First World War. Emphasising the advanced age of those who remember the conflict most acutely, the French Government announced that, just hours before yesterday's ceremonies, Aboulaye N'Daye, the last surviving Senegalese veteran of the conflict, died at his home at the age of 104.



The Queen at the Paris commemoration yesterday

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Lunch appeal for Lloyd George

Partial view of a person's face, likely related to the 'Lunch appeal' headline.

Honduras Agency Appeal

Partial view of a person's face, likely related to the 'Honduras Agency Appeal' headline.

Schröder 'too busy to go to France' - Partial view of a person's face, likely related to the headline.

Law lords are told that Callaghan and Heath might be at risk of prosecution abroad

British leaders could share Pinochet fate

LORD Callaghan of Cardiff and Sir Edward Heath could face arrest abroad in connection with allegations of torture in Northern Ireland if the principle of immunity from prosecution for heads of state were removed, five law lords were told yesterday.

Clive Nicholls, QC, counsel for General Augusto Pinochet, argued that the principle of sovereign immunity was "crucial and essential" and, if it were undermined, the consequences would be "horrific". There would be nothing to prevent, for example, the arrest on his arrival in Britain of George Bush, the former American President, for the bombing of Iraq, Ronald Reagan for the actions of American-backed right-wing rebel Contras in Nicaragua, or, if they travelled abroad, the two former British Prime Ministers for alleged acts of torture in Northern Ireland in the early Seventies.

Mr Nicholls was speaking on the fifth day of an appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain to the House of Lords against a High Court ruling that Gener-

Lawyers for the former Chilean dictator say immunity is vital, reports Joanna Bale

al Pinochet should not be extradited on allegations of kidnap, torture and murder committed while he was in power, because he was entitled to sovereign immunity. He argued that the former Chilean dictator had "absolute immunity" under the State Immunity Act 1978 and that to make exceptions to that rule would "defeat all the purposes of this legislation and the basis of his immunity". Such laws were necessary to "ensure the efficient performance of diplomatic functions".

Mr Nicholls also said that possible prosecution abroad would unreasonably inhibit leaders in their use of power. "If he was, as head of state, in

fear of future reprisals should he go abroad, he would be hindered in the proper exercise of his sovereign authority," he told the law lords.

Citing the example of Baroness Thatcher's conduct during the Falklands war, Mr Nicholls said she would have been prevented from properly leading Britain by the prospect of extradition to Argentina. "She would, of course, be impeded — and so would any other head of state," he added, citing Article 29 of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Mr Nicholls also argued that asserting the validity of immunity would neither remove the only available forum for trying the allegations against General Pinochet, nor send a message that crimes against humanity would go unpunished. The Chilean courts were already examining allegations against General Pinochet, and an international tribunal to examine the charges could also be convened.

Earlier, Clive Montgomery, QC, for General Pinochet, noted that an attempt to try Lady Thatcher for the alleged mur-



Sir Edward and Lord Callaghan are vulnerable on Ulster, and Baroness Thatcher over the *Belgrano* sinking, below



der of 600 sailors drowned when a British submarine sank the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano* in the Falklands conflict failed when Argentine judges said they had no jurisdiction to put her on trial. "Denying immunity would engage a breach of international law and could permit a suit by Chile," she said.

Ms Montgomery also argued that allegations of crimes against humanity, genocide and torture were all invalid in terms of international law, for various reasons. The allegation of genocide was invalid because the Spanish claim was that the actions involved were politically motivated. The accepted definition of genocide did not cover the killing of political opponents, she argued.

Similarly, General Pinochet could not be said to be guilty of crimes against humanity because such crimes were associated with armed conflict, or preparation for such a conflict, rather than a state of peace. In respect of the allegation of torture, she argued, General Pinochet could not be liable because the legislation which incorporated the international convention on torture into English law, the Criminal Justice Act, only came into effect in September 1988. That would exclude all the torture allegations levelled by the Spanish save for one. Likewise, the Talking of Hostages Act came into effect in November 1982. The House of Lords appeal is due to finish today and a ruling is expected next week. The formal request for General Pinochet's extradition arrived at the Home Office yesterday from Madrid. A Home Office spokesman said that Jack Straw now had two weeks to examine the request and decide whether to issue an authority for the extradition process to proceed.

The general is under police guard at a private clinic in North London, where he is recovering from back surgery. The Swiss Ambassador yesterday handed a formal request to the Home Office for the extradition of General Pinochet. The request, prepared last week, is based on an arrest warrant from Geneva examining magistrates, who have started a criminal inquiry into the detention, abduction and murder of Aled Jaccard, a Swiss and Chilean dual national who disappeared in Buenos Aires in 1997.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

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Chileans ready for mercy plea

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

A TEAM of Chilean ministers was preparing last night to fly to Britain next week to plead for clemency for General Augusto Pinochet if the law lords rule against him.

The new move was disclosed yesterday by sources at the Chilean Embassy in London as lawyers acting for the former military ruler urged the Lords to uphold the High Court's decision to free him.

It coincided with fresh warnings by pro-Pinochet politicians that their country's fragile transition to democracy would be seriously jeopardised if General Pinochet is extradited to Spain.

In another development underlining the gravity of the crisis in Chile, President Eduardo Frei summoned a rare meeting of the National Security Council to review the former dictator's arrest.

The Chilean delegation to London would be led by José Miguel Insulza, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It would be also likely to include senior home and defence ministers

and the heads of the Senate and Supreme Court.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, could free the 82-year-old General on compassionate grounds if the Lords grants Spain its extradition request.

Chile's leaders believe that the interval between the Lords judgement and Mr Straw's decision is the one to apply maximum political pressure for the general's release.

Yesterday, at the Chilean Embassy, Angelica Cristóbal, vice chairman of the right-wing National Renovation party, warned that people in Chile felt that its sovereignty was being undermined.

She said that the country was being "polarised" and the wider dangers were highlighted by the meeting of the security council, which has met only five times in the last decade.

But she ruled out Chile breaking off diplomatic relations with Britain and rejected suggestions that the crisis, which has hit trade between the two countries, could prompt a military coup.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

JANE MACQUITTY'S



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Bench is told to retry hunt man in drink case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MAGISTRATES who failed to ban a hunt master for driving at almost twice the legal drink-drive limit have been ordered to hear the case again.

Rodney Ellis, 57, joint master of the Tedworth Hunt in Wiltshire, escaped with a fine after claiming he had to drive his wife home from a hunt dinner because she had hurt her leg in a fall from her horse earlier that day.

Drink-drive campaigners branded the ruling "absolutely appalling" and called for an inquiry into the suitability of the magistrates in Devizes. The Court of Appeal, acting on an appeal from the Crown

Prosecution Service, ordered the bench to rehear the case.

The Lord Chancellor's Department agreed that the decision could be seen as a "serious slap on the wrists" for the magistrates. Maria Cape, of the Campaign against Drink Driving, said it was "a victory for common sense".

Ellis, a father of two, was stopped after midnight on March 23 as he drove his wife, Georgina, home to Burbage, near Marlborough. He told police that she had fallen from her horse and badly bruised tendons in her leg.

Sheila Edwards, for the prosecution, originally told Circuit magistrates: "The officers drove Ellis and his wife back to their house and helped Mrs Ellis up the stairs to bed. They then went back to the station to pick up an intoximeter. When they returned, Ellis refused to give a breath sample and was arrested."

When he was tested, it had shown 67 micrograms in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Andrew Jenkins, for Ellis, who admitted drink-driving, told the court that he had accompanied his wife during a meeting of the hunt in Savernake Forest earlier that day. Mrs Ellis had fallen and been taken to hospital. She had been allowed home and had gone to the dinner. Later, Mrs Ellis had decided she wanted to go home and her husband, realising she was in pain, felt that he had to take her.

The presiding magistrate, Lady Johnston, wife of Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, fined Ellis £450 with £100 costs, but decided not to ban him from driving. She said: "You had just cause in driving because this was a sufficient emergency."

CRASH JUDGE MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, 64, faces being judged in a class for errant drivers after she was involved in a crash. The judge has been offered two days of instruction in Hampshire instead of going to court after she drove into the path of another car. Her passenger, Lisa Barwick, 25, a former nanny to her grandson, Sam, suffered facial injuries for which she is still receiving hospital treatment. The judge, who admitted careless driving to police, has 21 days to decide whether to go on the course, in which offenders spend a morning in class before going out with an instructor to improve their driving skills. If she accepts, she will not be fined or have points put on her licence.



Lieutenant London, below, is to be honoured for his bravery. Above: just after landing with his shattered canopy

Award for Navy pilot who landed stricken fighter

By Tim Jones



A NAVY pilot who landed his crippled fighter plane on an aircraft carrier after being covered in sharp pieces of his shattered canopy is to be awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Lieutenant Jak London, 39, was flying at 40,000ft over the Gulf of Aden when the canopy of his Harrier disintegrated. Confronted by huge decompression and pressed into his seat by a 300mph air jet, he struggled to regain control of the fighter.

With thousands of tiny shards of Perspex swirling around his cockpit, becoming embedded in his flying suit and seat, he managed to send out a mayday warning to HMS *Invisible*, which was sailing thousands of feet beneath him.

Pieces of the broken canopy had entered the jet's twin engines, threatening to send the aircraft into freefall. But in spite of shock and windburn to his eyes, Lieutenant London managed to bring the Harrier under control and land it.

The officer, who has been flying Harriers for 16 years, was on duty with 800 Squadron in January when the incident happened. Yesterday he said: "The first thing I knew there was an almighty explosion and there was dust everywhere. There were pieces of Perspex flying around in the cockpit and crashing off my helmet and there was rapid de-

compression. I knew I had to get the plane down and I thought at first that just the seat had shattered.

"Then I looked up and realised the whole thing had gone. I didn't realise at the time, but shards of Perspex had ricocheted into the engine and damaged it."

The pilot, whose real name is Martin but who was nicknamed Jak after the adventure writer Jack London, said that, after he landed, he was shown how close he had come to being blinded. "There was a piece of Perspex which ricocheted off the side of my helmet and embedded itself in my seat an inch away from my head. If I was looking left instead of right it would have gone straight through my visor at eye level."

Anthony Warner, a Naval Air Command spokesman, said: "The fact that he was able to recover the plane to the carrier was quite remarkable, but then he is a remarkable man and a great pilot. It is hard enough to recover a fully operational jet to a carrier let alone trying to do it with all the problems he had."

Lieutenant London is now stationed as RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset, where he is part of the Flying Standards Flight, which monitors other crews. His former commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Dave Baddams, 39, from Somerset, was awarded the MBE for his leadership of the 800 Squadron in the Gulf.

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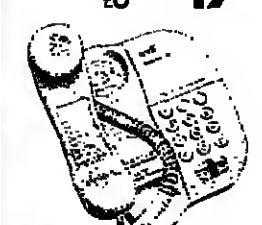
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder inquiry widens

Police have questioned a doctor from Greater Manchester, charged with murdering four elderly women, about the deaths of two more patients. Among the charges against Harold Shipman, 52, who is on remand in Walton jail, Liverpool, is that he killed an 81-year-old widow and altered her will. Other bodies are to be exhumed this week.

Lorry calamity

A man in his 60s suffered leg injuries when a lorry crashed into the sitting room of his home in Birmingham as he watched television. His partner was treated for shock after being flung from her bed in the room above. The driver had a broken arm and leg.

New train delay

Train passengers on the London, Tilbury and Southend line will have to put up with the old-fashioned slam-door carriages until March 2002, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising said. They were to have been replaced by November next year.

Rugby accident

A rugby player was on a life support machine in hospital after an accident during a match triggered a heart attack, James Moran, 17, a pupil at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was elbowed in the neck as he made a tackle.

Hamsters shed light on feasting in the dark

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE average hamster on his wheel is going nowhere, fast. But in the great outdoors they can find their way about blindfold.

Swiss scientists have shown that hamsters use a form of dead reckoning, as employed by sailors, to find their food. They compute their positions from knowing how fast they have been travelling, and for how long.

Ariane Etienne, of the Ethology Laboratory at the University of Geneva, and colleagues tried to bewilder half a dozen golden hamsters by sending them a tricky navigational task. Four identical grey cylinders, only one containing food, were set up inside an enclosed circular arena surrounded by plain white card. The test was to see if they could find their way back to the cylinder containing food, in the light, if they were first led to a different position in the arena in the dark. In 97 per cent of the trials they could, and returned to their nest through a gap in the arena wall. When the experiment was repeated in the dark, some hamsters were put off, but those that tried achieved a 90 per cent success rate.

The results show that the hamsters store a map in their heads of the route between nest and food, and update it continuously as they move, computing the direction and distance to the goal.

THE TIMES PER... The big ban... peter P... a beck... of pickled... If you can say...

Blessed is the motorway

Cathedral vestments celebrate such 'spiritual landmarks' as Spaghetti Junction, reports Ruth Gledhill



The Archdeacon of Aston, the Ven John Barton, models the "Spaghetti Junction" stole

BIRMINGHAM cathedral has acquired new vestments featuring local "spiritual landmarks" such as Spaghetti Junction, a Land Rover and the HP Sauce factory.

The stoles and altar fall, or frontal, which will be used for most of the year in the city centre cathedral from January, are intended to bring God and the spiritual world into closer contact with the secular, industrial surroundings of Birmingham and the Black Country.

Spaghetti Junction, the Land Rover, Smethwick water pumping station and other Birmingham landmarks have been painted on the vestments using medieval illumination techniques as used by monks on ancient manuscripts. Made by the designer Yvonne Bell, who works in a traditional, figurative style developed from studying ancient manuscripts such as the Winchester Bible stored near her Southampton home, they are handpainted on silk and sewn onto the wool-polyester vestments.

"God is in Spaghetti Junction," said the Archdeacon of Aston, the Ven John Barton, a member of the cathedral chapter, which commissioned the vestments after being left a £12,000 legacy. "It is hoped that, when people see Spaghetti Junction on the stoles, they will pray for travellers."

The new stoles also depict the clock tower from Birmingham's Jewellery quarter with a clock face replaced by Birmingham's silver assay mark, the engineer James Watt and one of his beam engines used in the Cornish mining industry, Sandwell and Oldbury council

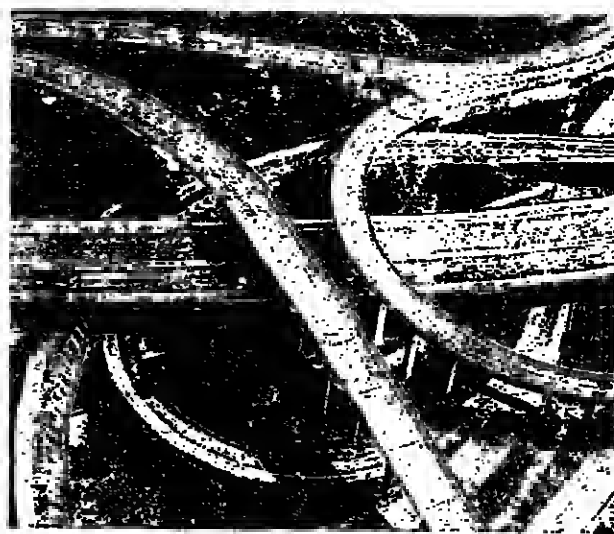
houses and churches from Polesworth and Coleshill.

The altar fall shows one of the renowned Birmingham canals, the new Symphony Hall, Telecom Tower, the new Colmore Gate office building, the National Indoor Arena, the Cadbury's factory, the HP Sauce factory and Birmingham town hall.

The green, "low season" vestments are one of five sets of new vestments designed by Mrs Bell for the cathedral. They will replace a set that is faded and beyond repair.

The others, grey for Lent, purple for Advent, red for Pentecost and white for Christmas and Easter, use more traditional imagery, with angelic figures from the cathedral's stained glass windows, crowns of thorns and flames representing the fire of the Holy Spirit.

However, there is one other concession to modernity — the cathedral's windows portray angels as white-skinned and light-haired, but on the vestments they are depicted as Afri-



God is in Spaghetti Junction, says Canon Barton

can, Asian, Arab and Oriental as well as European.

Canon Barton, displaying the vestments at the Christian Resources Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham, said: "We wanted to depict what goes on in the diocese of Birmingham. If there is any symbol that people recognise and associate with Birmingham, it is Spaghetti Junction. It is much more beautiful on the stole than it is in reality."

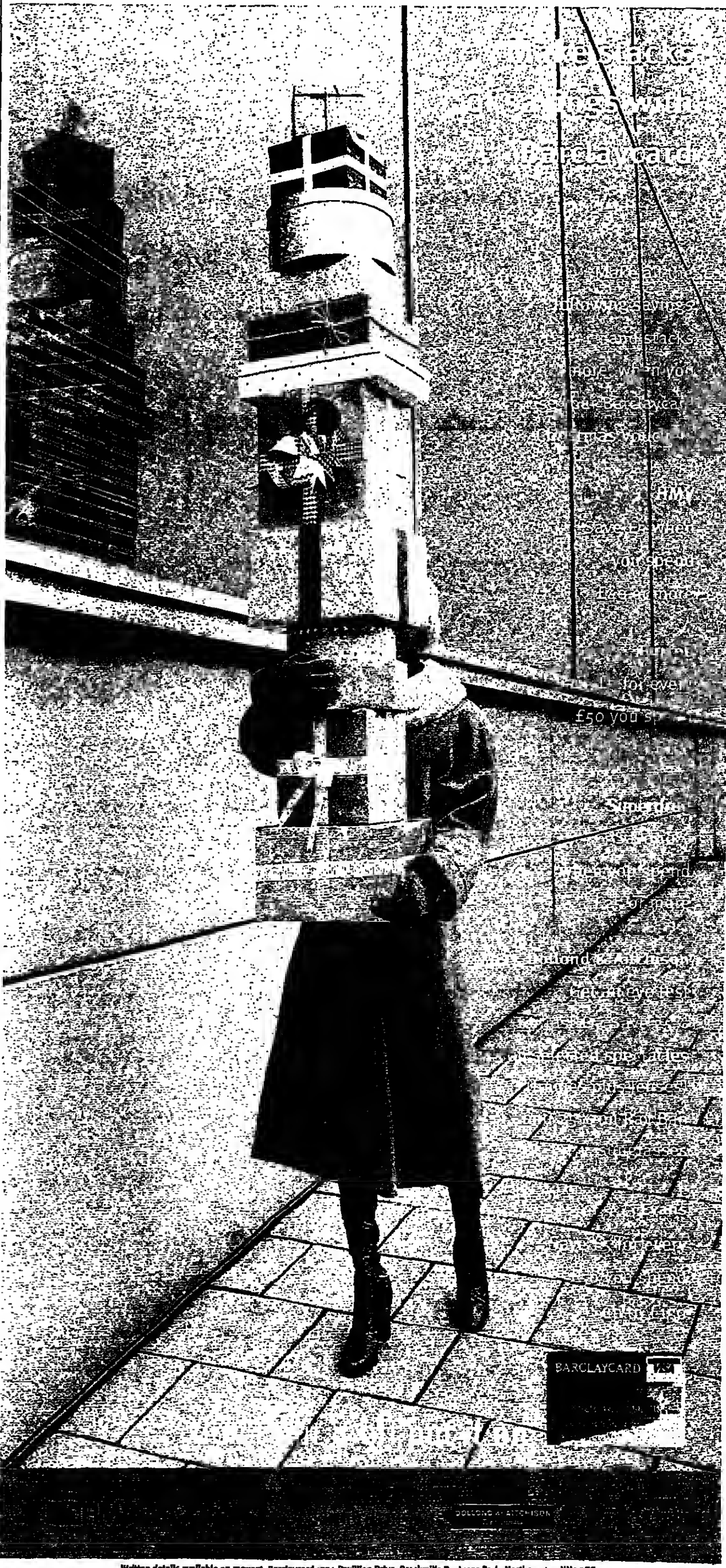
This is because the cars and lane markings have been re-

and we can be separated from everything that really matters. "We do not wish to wake people out of a religious reverie, but we want them to bring into their devotions things that really matter."

He said the concept of using local features to illustrate biblical themes had long been used by artists portraying sacred subjects. "The aim here is to offer God the secular landmarks and events of greater Birmingham and to encourage prayer for the people associated with them who live in the diocese."

Mrs Bell, 47, a former hospital technician who turned to design in middle age, said she began working with religious themes after friends at theological colleges asked her to make their ordination vestments. She is a committed Christian and attends an Anglican church in Southampton.

She came up with the Birmingham designs after a reconnaissance of the area with a camera. The Land Rover was included after the cathedral chapter sent her a brochure featuring the latest model and asked her to incorporate it. "According to the brochure, the Land Rover can climb a 45-degree incline, so on the stole it is angled at 45 degrees," she said.



The big bang that nobody noticed

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

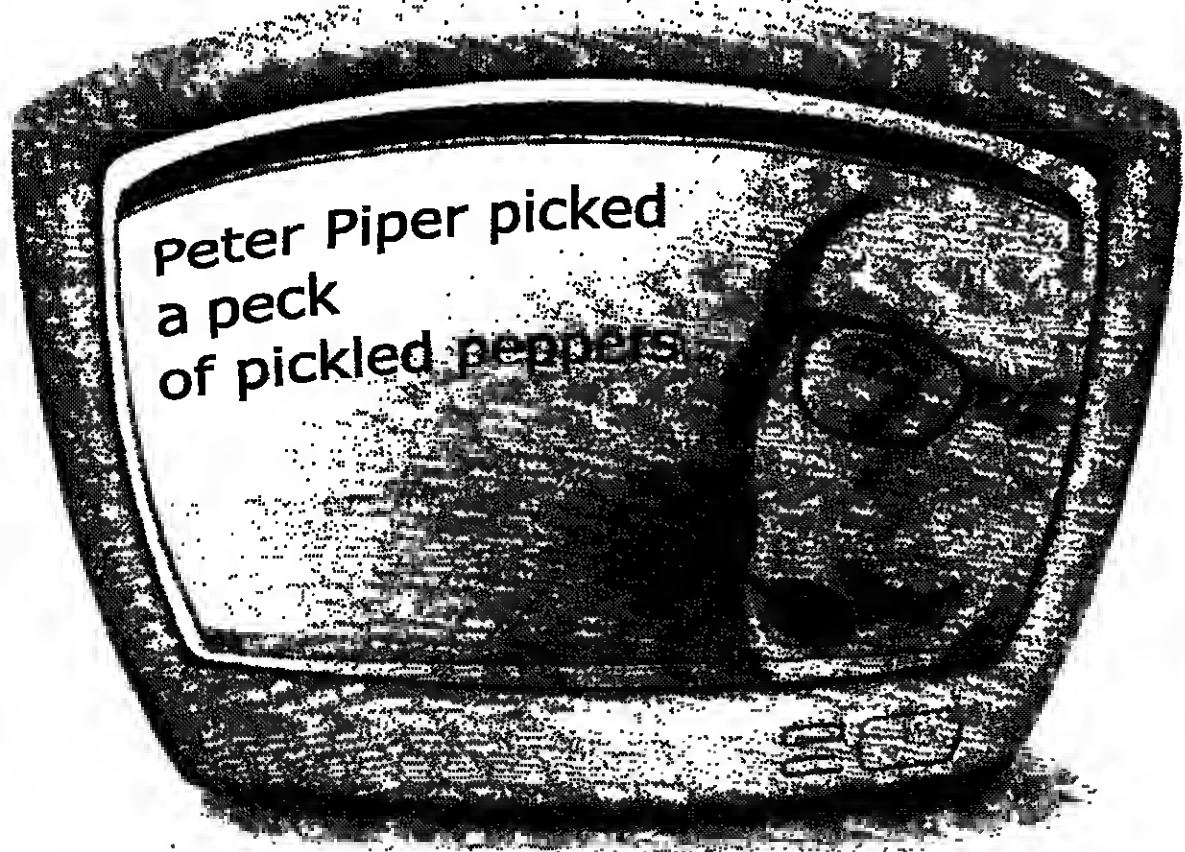
A SPECTACULAR explosion must have lit up the night sky early in the 14th century, but nobody seems to have noticed it. German astronomers at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching have found clear evidence of a huge supernova explosion in our galaxy which would have first appeared about 680 years ago. If they are right, it must have been so bright that it

outshone every other star and planet in the sky. It may well have been the closest supernova explosion in human history.

Supernovae are massive stars which explode at the end of their lives, leaving a spreading cloud of hot, glowing gas which persists for thousands of years. There are at least 200 such remnants in our galaxy, the Milky Way. Bernd Aschenbach suggests that the exploding star was too low on the horizon for the keenest astronomers of the day, the Chinese and Japanese, to have seen it. He

found the remnants of the supernova by detecting X-rays picked up by the US-German Rosat satellite. In *Nature*, he reports that the remains are very hot — 30 million C — indicating the explosion happened comparatively recently.

Anthony Aveni, an expert in early astronomy from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, suggested in *New Scientist* that medieval texts may be a good place to look for a record of the event, as some medieval cultures used astrology to cure disease.



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BY THE EDITOR

...with his shattered canopy...

Hamsters shed light on feasting in the dark

...shed light on feasting in the dark...

Even the best schools are told to do better

SCHOOLS producing some of the best results in the country could nevertheless be letting down their pupils, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday. Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, announced with Mr Woodhead that "coasting" schools — those where "although pupils appear to be doing well, they could and should be doing better" — would be particular targets of a proposed new inspection regime. "When we talk about raising standards, that has to be about every child reaching their potential," Ms Morris told a London briefing. "We want to see every child pushed to higher standards, no matter what their starting-point. There is no room for complacency, even amongst schools which appear to be getting quite reasonable results."

The latest target for Chris Woodhead is complacency. Schools thought to be 'coasting' face renewed inspections

head said that the tentative suggestion was that such schools could represent up to 15 per cent of all schools, and acknowledged that they could include highly regarded selective schools.

Ofted is proposing a "light touch" inspection for those shown to be performing well. Having inspected every school in England once, Ofted believes that three in ten may not need further inspection in the same detail. Routine inspections for all schools will now occur once every five or six years, instead of every four.

For schools judged to be performing well, these inspections will be less detailed — while sufficiently rigorous to give parents full information. To qualify for "light touch" inspections, schools would have to have top results, to have improved faster than the national average and to have had excellent previous reports.

Mr Woodhead said that good schools "do not need the same external scrutiny as weak schools. They have demonstrated they can manage their own destiny, and further checks ought to be as light as they can be." Resources freed by the change — which will be piloted next year and would be implemented fully in 2000 — would be diverted towards coasting and weak schools.

"Failing" schools, or those with serious weaknesses, would be inspected once every two years: those thought to merit a "light touch" would be subject to a full inspection within six months if found to have serious problems. It is also proposed that schools receive less notice of visits — as little as four weeks, instead of the current two terms. It is hoped this will reduce "stress" for teachers awaiting the visit, and result in less excessive preparation in schools.



Young cellists taught by the Suzuki Method. Research suggests that their studies will assist their memory for words

COMPLAINT OVER INSPECTOR IS UPHELD

Ofted has upheld a complaint by Christ Church Infants School, in Bristol, that a critical report by one of its inspectors, Geoffrey Owen, was "full of inaccuracies", and has offered the school a new inspection by a different team. Several other schools have also complained about Mr Owen, accusing him of bullying. A source at the National Union of Teachers said that teachers had been reduced to tears. Janita Hills, the head teacher of Christ Church, said yesterday: "I am very pleased with the response of Ofted. They have listened carefully to the concerns we raised with them."

Music lessons are the key to better memory

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CHILDREN who have music lessons before the age of 12 have a better memory for words when they become adults, research in Hong Kong has shown.

It is the latest evidence that studying music has benefits that go far beyond staves and semi-quavers. A higher IQ, a better grasp of mathematics, science and languages, better reasoning power and even a bigger brain have all been reported by scientists looking at the effects of music.

The latest research, carried out at the Chinese University of Hong Kong by Agnes Chan and colleagues, compared 30 female students who had had music lessons with 30 who had not. The only significant difference between the two groups was that one had been taught music, using Western instruments, and the other had not. Short-term memory for words and pictures was tested by their being asked to remember a list of 16 words read to them and ten simple shapes shown to them.

The team reports in *Nature* that the women with music training remembered significantly more words. After three repetitions of the list, they typically

remembered 14 of the 16 words, compared with 12 for those without musical training. There was no difference in visual memory.

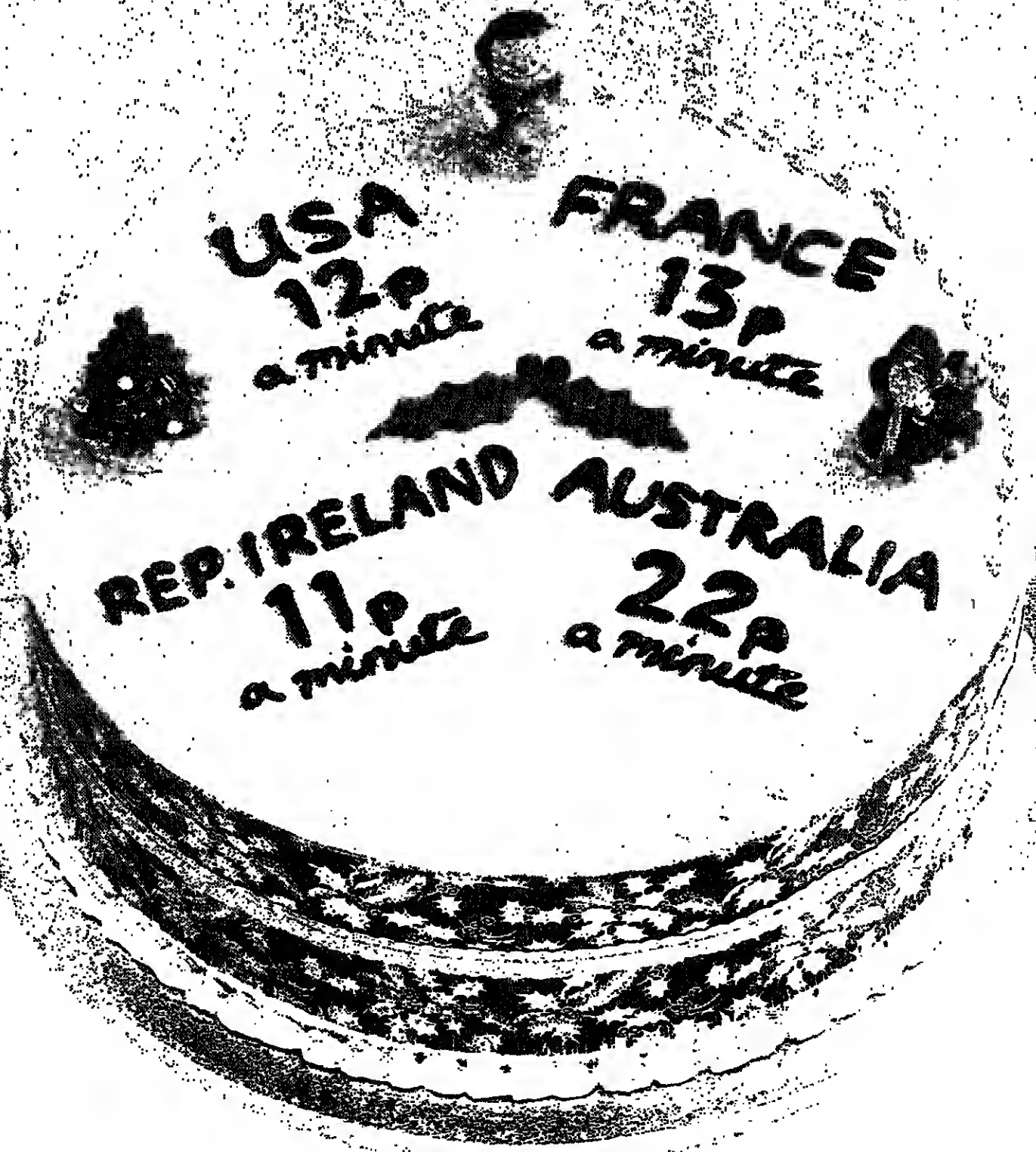
The result is plausible because brain-imaging techniques have shown that the left temporal lobe is larger in musicians than in non-musicians. That area of the brain is also responsible for verbal memory, while visual memory is controlled by the right temporal lobe.

Dr Chan and her colleagues, Yim-Chi Ho and Mei-Chun Cheung, say that as a way of improving memory, music teaching may have advantages over other techniques such as mnemonics.

Last Sunday, Gottfried Schlaug, of the Beth Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston, told the American Society for Neuroscience in Los Angeles that brain scans of 90 people showed that the cerebellum was 5 per cent larger in the musicians.

The cerebellum is a part of the brain involved in movement and balance and is used by musicians to interpret rhythm, two neuroscientists from the University of Texas told the same meeting.

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Maestro Masur quits America for London

THE maestro of the New York Philharmonic has been poached for London in a notable coup. Kurt Masur, who has been the music director in New York since 1991, will become principal conductor of the London Philharmonic in autumn 2000, initially on a five-year contract. His New York contract expires in 2002.

The appointment will provide an enormous boost to morale. The London Philharmonic, resident at the Royal Festival Hall, enjoyed high success in the 1970s and 1980s under the direction of Georg Solti, Bernard Haitink and Klaus Tennstedt, but it has not had a principal conductor for more than two years. It went through a financial crisis in the mid-1990s and has struggled to match the high-flying London Symphony Orchestra.

Masur, a 71-year-old German who conducted his first concert at the age of 16, is among the top-ranked classical musicians in the world. Prior to his appointment in New York, he spent 26 years as music director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus, one of Germany's oldest orchestras.

During that time he achieved fame of a different kind when he became a figurehead in the events of 1989. He threw open the doors of the concert hall to house Leipzig's first genuinely spontaneous political rally in 40 years and acted as honest broker in the handover of power.

Asked subsequently to stand for president in the reunified Germany, he replied: "Am I so bad a conductor that I have to become a politician?"

His appointment in 1991 to follow in the footsteps of Mahler, Toscanini and Bernstein in New York surprised the music world. But he was an instant success with the notoriously unruly orchestra, imposing an iron will and tough rehearsal discipline, and producing acclaimed interpretations of the main Austro-German symphonic repertoire.

His arrival in London will go some way towards dissipating the gloom that has plagued much of the capital's musical life in recent years. It also means that London — despite offering some of the smallest fees in the business — has managed to retain the loyalty of many of the world's most eminent conductors.

Appointment of new conductor to Philharmonic is sure to raise spirits, reports Darya Alberge

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Sir Colin Davis is music director of the London Symphony Orchestra, which also has strong links with Maslov Rostropovich; Christoph von Dohnányi, a much-respected German, is principal conductor of the Philharmonia; and Bernard Haitink is still the music director of the Royal Opera House. With the Italian firebrand Daniele Gatti at the Royal Philharmonic, and the brilliant young Englishman Paul Daniel in charge at English National Opera, London has arguably never enjoyed so rich a variety of musical interpretations.

Masur said: "Yes, London's musical life is in more of a turmoil than New York's or Leipzig's. But I like the democratic spirit in London orchestras. I like their pride."

Masur interview, page 41



Kurt Masur will take up his new post in autumn 2000. He said he liked the democratic spirit of London orchestras — "I like their pride"



Music lessons the key to er memory



London calling: Haitink, left, and von Dohnányi

Bathroom beats office for business ideas

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S creative minds get their best ideas in the bath, walking the dog or lying on the beach, it was revealed yesterday.

For a study entitled *Innovation at the Top: Where do directors get their ideas from?*, Roffey Park Management Institute interviewed more than 120 executives from compa-

nies such as Virgin, Mazda, Joe Buggs and the National Theatre, who said their best ideas often came while they were well away from work.

The study said: "Ideas and insights tend to come to us away from work because this is the time when we allow our minds to drift and dream."

It said businesses could benefit by encouraging an "out-of-work culture".

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Blair rules out 'trendy' choice of Laureate

There are limits to the Prime Minister's zeal for the new, report Philip Webster and Mark Henderson

THE Prime Minister has decided to stick with tradition over the appointment of the next Poet Laureate. As he set in train the lengthy procedure of consultation over the successor to the late Ted Hughes, Tony Blair told friends that he had no intention of opting for a "trendy pop star".

The disclosure that there are limits to Mr Blair's zeal for modernisation may disappoint his colleague Mo Mowlam, who has suggested that Sir Paul McCartney would be a suitable candidate. "It will be a poet," a source close to the Prime Minister said. Mr Blair has asked for advice from the Royal Society of Literature, the Royal Literary Fund, the Society of Authors, and the Arts Council about which candidate to recommend to the Queen. He has written to inform them that he intends to follow normal practice. This does include consultation with the public, who will be encouraged to write in with proposals. Although he is not encouraging suggestions that the choice should be seen as the "people's poet", he would hope that he or she will write on subjects that will resonate with the public.

The Royal Society of Literature will give Downing Street a list of five names, and its council has met to dis-

cuss a shortlist. Michael Holroyd, the chairman, said it was minded to suggest poets from different age groups and traditions to give the Prime Minister a wide choice. "We have listed two poets who are separated by a good 50 years in age, and several with vastly contrasting styles," he said.

He would not be drawn on names, but said the society had not considered pop stars even before receiving Mr Blair's letter. Other unconventional figures such as the rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah and the comedian John Hiegley had been discussed, however, along with more heavyweight contenders such as Andrew Motion, Wendy Cope, and Tony Harrison.

After the death of John Betjeman in 1984, the RSL submitted four names to Downing Street for consideration: Philip Larkin, who was offered the post but turned it down; Hughes, who was selected in his

place; Charles Causley, who won a *Times* poll of poets' choices for the post; and Stephen Spender.

The Arts Council decision will be taken by its literature advisory panel, chaired by the director of literature, Gary McKeown. He is to draw up a shortlist of four or five names after taking soundings from regional arts boards.

By contrast, his predecessor, the critic Charles Osborne, "took the decision about who to suggest myself," after Betjeman's death, he said. "I thought it disastrous to have 20 people agonising over it."

Mr Osborne made a single suggestion rather than putting forward a shortlist. "My original recommendation was for Philip Larkin. I thought I had better first let him know, but he was appalled, and told me in no uncertain terms he would not accept. Hughes was the second choice."

The Society of Authors will be advising the Prime Minister on the appointment of the Laureate for the first time; the management committee will select a shortlist.

The Royal Literary Fund's chairman, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir Stephen Tumim, is expected to take a leading role in making his recommendations.



McCartney, suggested by Mo Mowlam, and Motion, more likely to succeed Hughes



The 20ft Sahara carving, up to 9,000 years old: "like finding Michelangelo's David"

Prehistoric giraffe stalks out of the sands of time

By Dominic Kennedy

A 20ft GIRAFFE carved between 6,000 and 9,000 years ago in the sandstone of the Sahara is causing a sensation among archaeologists.

Long known to the Tuareg tribesmen - its significance came to light only when it was seen during an expedition by the Frenchman Jean Clottes, president of the International Committee of Rock Art.

The giraffe, whose location in Niger is being kept secret to deter looters, was photographed by David Coulson, chairman of the Trust for African Rock Art. The Louvre is said to be considering displaying a cast of the prehistoric carving, which is slightly taller than life size.

Mr Coulson said: "We were completely stunned by what we saw. We had climbed on to an outcrop about 300 yards long and 50ft high, all of it covered in engravings. We looked down and there it was."

"To us it was the rock art equivalent of stumbling on Michelangelo's David in the desert, and it is certainly equal to the finest art in the great palaeolithic caves of Europe."

The giraffe had a spiritual significance for the vanished people of the Sahara, Mr Coulson believes. He and a colleague, Alec Campbell, founder of Botswana's National Museum, have studied thousands of rock art paintings and engravings from all over Africa.

Some archaeologists have suggested giraffes were once domesticated but Mr Coulson disagrees. "We believe the giraffe was seen as a rain-bringer," he said. "It was a cult ani-

mal, so tall that it walked with its head in the clouds, which is how it is depicted in rock paintings in Algeria and South Africa. By creating these images, maybe the artists felt they were tapping into the giraffe's mystic powers."

The giraffe was carved with primitive stone chisels and hammers. The grooves were given a final polish, possibly with sand. The giraffe survived because it was engraved on a natural buttress protected from the prevailing northeasterly desert winds. The lack of rain helped.

Mr Coulson will return in January to create casts of the giraffe for the Niger Government, the National Geographic Society building in Washington and possibly the Louvre. The sponsors are the Bradshaw Foundation of Geneva and the National Geographic Society.

Rock art in the Sahara has been vandalised by armed guerrillas using the carvings for target practice. In Morocco, looters have carried away truckloads of prehistoric paintings and engravings.

"Sometimes you feel the whole of the Sahara is a museum of cultures and people who have just vanished into the sand," Mr Coulson said. "Until recently rock art was viewed as being little more than the graffiti left behind by primitive man, but unlike the kind of archaeology that involves digging up old bones, it can give you a glimpse into the minds of these vanished people and how they viewed their world."

2,000 more wind turbines likely in fight against global warming

FROM NICK NUTTALL IN BUENOS AIRES

MANY more wind turbines will be erected in the countryside as part of Britain's effort to fight global warming, Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said yesterday.

Industry experts estimate that about 2,000 more turbines will be

needed under the Government's pledge for renewable energy to deliver 10 per cent of the country's electricity needs.

Mr Meacher, speaking at the Climate Change Convention, said that renewable energy produced 2 per cent of Britain's electricity needs. "If we are going to increase five-fold, and we are determined to

reach this target, there is going to have to be a considerable increase in wind turbines," he said.

His comments are likely to shock countryside campaigners, who claim that turbines despoil the landscape. Mr Meacher said he wanted to reassure objectors. "The expansion has to be tempered by careful planning to ensure visual intrusiveness does not happen," he said.

Dale Vince, director of the Renewable Energy Company, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, which erects wind farms, said that there were currently 700 wind turbines in Britain delivering 330mW of electricity, but between 4,000mW and 5,000mW was likely by 2010 to meet the Government's target. Mr

Dale, also in Buenos Aires, said that modern turbines were more powerful, so only a further 2,000 machines were likely to be needed. He predicted that half of these would be offshore.

The Government has signalled that it is ready to begin promoting offshore wind turbines next year. However, the prospect of at least

1,000 turbines on land is likely to be opposed by groups such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Their main objection is that turbines are often located in or near beauty spots such as Snowdonia and the Yorkshire moors.

Mr Dale said that this conflict was partly the Government's fault. In Denmark, which has 4,000 tur-

bines, developers were not forced into locations with the highest wind speeds. But he said that early British wind developers had, under the terms of the Government's levy designed to encourage renewable energy, been forced into more sensitive areas.

Global warming, page 20

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IN DUMFRIES KENNEDY... The hole-in-the-wall... The hole-in-the-wall... The hole-in-the-wall...

Computer bobbies to take over from PCs

Stations may be replaced by 'hole-in-the-wall' screens, writes Russell Jenkins

POLICE in Greater Manchester are to test plans to replace some police stations with unstaffed computer kiosks that resemble hole-in-the-wall bank machines.

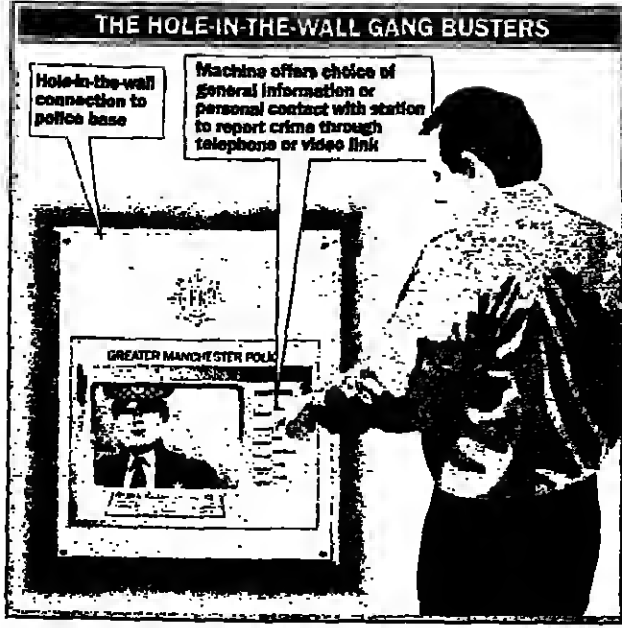
People anxious to report an emergency or speak to a policeman would use the touch screen to be put through by telephone — and eventually by video link — to the nearest control room. They would be able to ask the time or receive directions electronically, at the touch of the screen.

Senior officers are convinced that the machines, known as customer interaction points, or communications kiosks, will appear in every high street and will become as familiar as cashpoints or the old blue police boxes.

The 'hole in the wall' proposals — which will be tested out in Salford as part of a plan to reduce the number of police stations — grew from a review of the Greater Manchester Police force's property as part of a budget crisis.

Supporters of the plan insist that the need to cut costs is only a means to force through an inevitable and welcome technological change which more adequately reflects changing police methods.

Stuart Bender, the force spokesman, said that most people reported crime, from burglaries to emergencies, over the telephone, and increasingly by mobile phone. They rarely



needed to go to a police station, except to present documents. The kiosks would release money for front-line officers instead of tying it up in property. The first machines could be in libraries, supermarkets or on the street, he said.

"In the future in every high street there will probably be some kind of hole-in-the-wall police contact point where you will be able to make contact with a 24-hour control room or find out things about community safety and so on. That way technology gives us flexibility and accessibility to improve our level of service and keep officers on the front line rather than having them manning police stations."

The pilot scheme will be discussed as part of the larger rationalisation at a meeting of the Police Authority on Friday. Chief Superintendent Chris Wells, Divisional Commander in Salford, said: "None of the existing police stations will close until replacement facilities have been installed. The vast majority of people that access our service do not visit a police station, they use a

telephone. We are looking to increase our effectiveness and these proposals together with new technology will take us in that direction."

He said people will be able to access see town centre maps and get basic directions from the kiosks, as well as information on crime prevention, details about area constables, missing persons, Crimestoppers and witness support.

Senior officers acknowledge that their biggest problem will be persuading a sceptical public of its advantages. Barry Evans, the force's director of information technology, is aware of the need to "carry a myriad of people" along with him and that the machines must prove their worth.

Karen Garrido, chairwoman of the Boothstown police and community consultative group, based in Salford, is opposed to the scheme. Boothstown police station is scheduled to be closed down within twelve months.

She said: "I am totally against the closure. The people should be asked what they want and I don't think they will want a little box or a hole in the wall instead."

A spokesman for Age Concern, which has offices in Eccles, Salford, said: "We believe it would be quite daunting for an old person who does not have a telephone to leave their home and use one of these machines."



Old style policing: children of the future, however, may have to ask a computer if they want to know the time

Closure move is sign of the times

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of police stations will be closed or moved over the next ten years as other forces follow the example of Greater Manchester.

Forces hard-pressed for cash are expected to review policing patterns dating from Victorian times and sell off valuable inner-city sites from a property portfolio worth more than £2 billion. They will be replaced by bigger stations covering larger areas, or small new stations in areas of growing population.

It is trend that will see many forces doing away with operational, 24-hour stations

on every high street. Senior officers argue that there are a handful of callers after 10pm and that, even during the day, many calls are for street directions.

Most people contact the police by telephone and the spread of mobile phones will increase this. Commanders also point out that their officers are now highly mobile and are deployed centrally, rather than from individual stations.

Scotland Yard and a number of rural forces have already reduced the smaller, regular stations to limited opening hours and are closing them for lunch. In Brick Lane in East London, the Yard has also opened a police "shop", keeping commercial hours, to cover a large Bangladeshi

community. In Dumfries and Galloway, one of the smaller Scottish forces, callers at stations that are closed can pick up a telephone outside and talk directly to the main operations room. The force is also one of a number that has mobile police stations that call at villages once a fortnight.

The mobile stations spell the end of the traditional village policeman, just as the panda car and the personal radio signalled the end of the bobby on the beat in towns. Police now acknowledge that putting officers in cars in the 1960s — after experiments led by the Lancashire force — meant that they lost valuable contact with the public.

Children given taste of danger

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

CHILDREN are to be made to play on railway lines, stand in smoke-filled houses and shop in stores that sell only explicit videos, cigarettes and alcohol as part of a scheme to teach them safety.

The locations are sets built inside a large warehouse on the outskirts of Bournemouth as part of Britain's first permanent safety centre.

The locally funded Streetwise Centre, which opens today, will give up to 15,000 children a year the chance to act out vital safety routines. Dangerous scenes that children will be asked to negotiate include a furnished house that fills with harmless smoke, a dark alley with no escape routes, a beach, a park and a high street with a main road.

Safety experts from Dorset Police, fire and ambulance services will take children through safety procedures.

Girl, 9, lost fight to save friend

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A GIRL of 10 drowned after being sucked into a 12in storm drain flowing so fast that her friend could not pull her out, an inquest was told yesterday.

Naomi Sims was trapped under water in the River Glyme at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, for 20 minutes and died in hospital. Aude Rutter, 9, was unable to save her.

The inquest at Oxford heard how the pull of the overflow drain was so strong that even adults did not have the strength to free her. One of two firemen who pulled Naomi from the drain said the suction was so great that he feared she would be sucked into the drain completely.

Victoria Banbury, who was alerted by the screams of French-born Aude, told the inquest: "I bent down and grabbed her around the ankle and pulled and pulled but she was wedged."

The inquest heard that Woodstock Town Council had



Naomi Sims, 10, was drowned in river

Improved safety measures at the drain after consulting the Environment Agency.

However, the dead girl's mother, Bridget Hogg, 33, said she was taking legal action against the council. She said: "If the sluice had been kept in working order this would never have happened." Her solicitor said the gates had not been properly maintained since 1988.

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Brown launches 'battle for Britain'

THE political battle for Britain has begun. Not the words of a Tory English Nationalist, but of Gordon Brown talking yesterday to *The Times* in his cavernous Treasury office.



The Chancellor is a Scot but, he tells Peter Riddell, he is also determined to keep the Union intact

He has launched a high-profile counter-attack against the Scottish Nationalists which Tony Blair will reinforce later today when he travels north of the border. At issue is not just the future of Scotland in the United Kingdom but also the position of England.

Not content just with worrying about global financial turmoil or the state of the British economy, Mr Brown has been thinking since the summer about how to move on the argument over devolution.

Ever since the Scottish referendum was won 13 months ago, Labour has been on the defensive against the SNP. Mr Brown believes it is necessary to change the terms of the debate — to move away from just talking about institutions to looking instead at what unites Scotland and the rest of the UK, to present what he repeatedly refers to as "the case for Britain".

Characteristically, Mr Brown has produced some pithy slogans, which he will hear many times: "The New Scotland in the New Britain. Scotland and England are stronger together and weaker apart. We are better off together and worse off split apart." For Mr Brown, it is possible to be proud of being Scottish, British and European, just as in the United States people are proud of being Texans and Americans. He offers a vision of a pluralist country that

"gains strength from celebrating diversity, and not just from the imposition of uniformity". He claims that this is an argument for the union, "strengthening the sense of being British".

He relates this to the broader programme of constitutional change, not just devolution, but also other measures intended to strengthen ties between the individual, commu-

'A country gains strength from celebrating diversity, not the imposition of uniformity'

nity and government, such as the new Human Rights Act, freedom of information and revival of local government. It is all part of the transformation from Britain being "a country of subjects to being a country of citizens".

Mr Brown quotes the case developed by Scottish intellectuals such as Tom Nairn, who argue that the failure of the central British state is now the

main argument for breaking the union apart. By contrast, the Chancellor maintains that the fundamental constitutional changes in the UK as a whole are helping to unite Britain.

He stresses the shared values between Scotland and the rest of Britain — "openness, internationalism, public service, fair play, social justice, social cohesion, democracy, tolerance, and enterprise". He sees common institutions being matched by these shared values.

The Brown case is also intended to answer both the famous cricket-test definition of Englishness offered by Norman Tebbit and those who presented a "blind eye in the Stephen Lawrence case".

The Chancellor will shortly be making a major speech south of the border to address the arguments about English nationalism which some Tory MPs have recently been developing. He wants to draw a dividing line between the arguments over devolution legislation and the future.

The Scotland Bill, which will become law next week, is for him an attempt to address grievances about a lack of democratic control and a threat to Scottish civic institutions, particularly health and education, which had built up during the



The Chancellor believes that Scottish grievances about political control from London have been addressed by setting up the new parliament

Tory years when decisions were taken in London.

But now, he argues, these grievances about the democratic deficit have been addressed, and there is no case for separation. In a pamphlet just produced with Douglas Alexan-

der MP, one of his protégés, Mr Brown challenges the separatist case put by the SNP.

Artificial barriers would, he said, be created that would be an "unjustified and costly diversion" and would damage Scotland. He claims the SNP's

definition of Scottish citizenship would not only be narrower than Britain currently uses, but would mean that children of Scots born outside Scotland would be denied Scottish citizenship and defined as foreigners. So the son of Sean Connery, the SNP's most famous backer, would not automatically be entitled to Scottish citizenship.

The SNP's definition would, Mr Brown claims, be more limited than the qualifications needed for representing Scotland at either football or rugby.

The nationalists would treat England as a foreign country by creating a department of external relations — in the process "wasting" money on the building of consulates rather than on schools and hospitals as Scots want. Mr Brown roundly argues that no citizen of Britain should ever be a foreigner in Britain.

Echoing arguments that might be used about Britain's place in a wider Europe, Mr Brown rants out a string of economic statistics as he munches on some late morning biscuits.

Of Scotland's top 50 private sector employers, only seven have a home base outside the UK and more than half are registered elsewhere in Britain. Moreover, some familiar Scottish names like Scottish and Newcastle, John Menzies,

Standard Life and Scottish Amicable have a larger presence in England than Scotland.

Half of Scotland's trade is with England. So, he argues, Scotland's economic future is bound inextricably with England and it would be costly to create new barriers in the form of separate regulations and taxes. These would cost jobs and hamper investment.

It is nonsense, he says, for Scotland to cut all its ties with Eng-

'Scotland's trade is inextricably bound with England. New barriers would be costly'

land and pretend it can deal independently with Brussels within the European Union.

Why, he wonders, has nationalism become an issue in an increasingly interdependent global economy? Mr Brown sees the demand for separation as a desire for a refuge at a time of rapid change, and a retreat from such changes.

But he argues that the progressive response to globalisation is not to look inwards or to

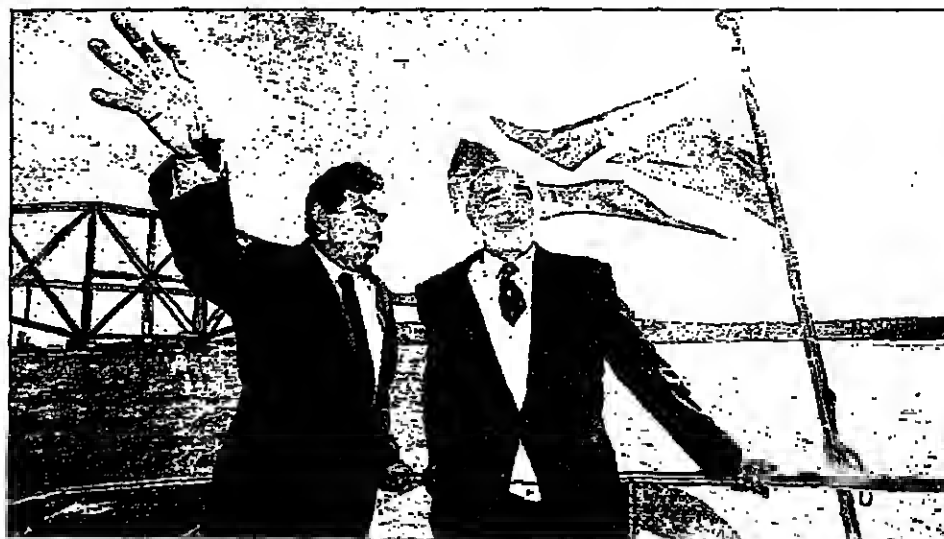
cut Scotland off from the rest of Britain, but to look outwards. The strong sense of British social cohesion would, he said, be threatened by separation. Rather, Scotland benefits from its links to England.

Mr Brown and Mr Blair will argue that the "case for Britain" depends on how the Scots and the English build on the values which are shared in common.

In particular, Mr Brown says, his Scots constituents want to be part of Britain-wide services, such as the NHS, the pooling of risks involved in social security and pensions, and a tax system geared to ability to pay.

Mr Brown argues that in the allocation of public expenditure, it is a long established principle that all areas of the UK are entitled to broadly the same level of public services which should be allocated according to their relative needs. Given that principle, he sounds less convincing when he is trying to defend the dividing line between those activities which will be devolved to the new Edinburgh Parliament, like health, education and the environment, and those kept at Westminster, like defence, taxes, social security and abortion.

But Mr Brown leaves no doubt that, as a Scot, he is determined that his homeland should remain within the UK and that he will himself remain a British politician.



Gordon Brown with Sean Connery, the SNP's most famous backer, in Fife

Blair extends Lib Dems Cabinet committee role

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown announced last night that they are to extend co-operation between their parties in a new attempt to challenge "destructive tribalism" in British politics.

Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders will sit down together to discuss areas such as Europe and could move on to other controversial policies such as welfare reform, education and health.

The move seemed likely last night to land Mr Ashdown in trouble with party activists who feel he has become too close to Mr Blair. They remain disappointed that he has failed to secure from Labour a firm promise that there will be a referendum on proportional representation before the next election.

Mr Ashdown was reported to be delighted at the move, which he believes will give his party greater influence over a wider range of issues. Mr

Blair confirmed in a Commons written reply last night that the referendum, though a manifesto promise, might not be held before an election.

He said that if it proved impossible to hold the referendum before the election for practical reasons, it should be held at the earliest appropriate moment.

Mr Blair's spokesman denied that the announcement of greater co-operation was a sop to Mr Ashdown for his failure to win the referendum pledge.

The two leaders said in a statement that the work of the joint Cabinet committee would be reviewed and widened. The review will be conducted by Alan Beith, the deputy Liberal Democrat leader, and Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister.

In an attempt to placate Liberal Democrat rebels, the statement underlined that they would remain "two sovereign

and independent parties working together where we agree and opposing each other where we do not. Our parties will continue to offer different choices to the British people."

It added: "We are confident this step forward can deepen co-operation and result in widening support for the kind of progressive change which we wish to see and to which we believe the British people are strongly committed."

Mr Blair was said to regard the close links between the two parties as beneficial and a way of showing people that there could be a "modern grown-up politics" in Britain. His spokesman added that there was no question of Mr Ashdown being given a government position.

The latest move in co-operation between the parties comes after six meetings of the existing Cabinet committee, dealing chiefly with constitutional reform.

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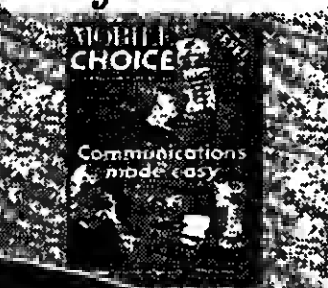
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Farmer's aid from over ca

Tory peers re Euro poll bat

Farmers demand aid from Blair over cash crisis

FARMERS' leaders from around Britain met the Prime Minister yesterday to seek emergency aid to counter the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

The delegation, which met Mr Blair in the House of Commons yesterday evening, was led by Ben Gill, President of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and her counterparts from the Welsh and Scottish Offices were also present.

"It was essential for us to have this opportunity to express to the Prime Minister the severe problems being experienced right across the agriculture industry", Mr Gill said.

"We stressed our need for the Government's support and commitment in the industry's hour of need, and gave the Prime Minister first-hand graphic accounts of what is happening on the ground in the farming community and the knock-on effects throughout the rural economy."

The delegation urged the Prime Minister to take advantage of EU aid, worth up to £48 million to beef producers and £80 million to cereal producers, that is available to offset the strength of sterling.

The difficulty for the Government is that some 70 per cent of this money, although nominally a grant, would end up being paid for by the Treasury through Britain's contributions to the EU budget.

Cattle farmers told Mr Blair that they were also worried by the imminent withdrawal of a payment of about £79 an animal, which they now receive to kill calves soon after birth and remove them from the food chain. Without this subsidy,

Prime Minister urged to take up EU grants worth £130m, writes Michael Hornsby

unsaleable amounts of beef would accumulate on the domestic market because of the closure of export markets, forcing down cattle prices still further.

Before the export of beef was banned by the EU two and a half years ago, Britain was exporting up to 500,000 calves a year to the Continent to be reared as veal.

The current slump in agriculture began in March 1996, after the disclosure that "mad cow" disease had probably passed to human beings in the form of a new strain of the incurable brain illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). This led to the beef ban and immediate problems for cattle farmers, although these were offset initially by generous government aid.

Since then, the crisis has spread to almost every farming sector, with the exception of potatoes, which are doing well because poor weather has reduced the size of the crop, creating a shortage that has pushed up prices.

A report by the accountants Deloitte and Touche in October estimated that farm profits had fallen by 66 per cent over the last two years and that a quarter of farms were now running at a loss.

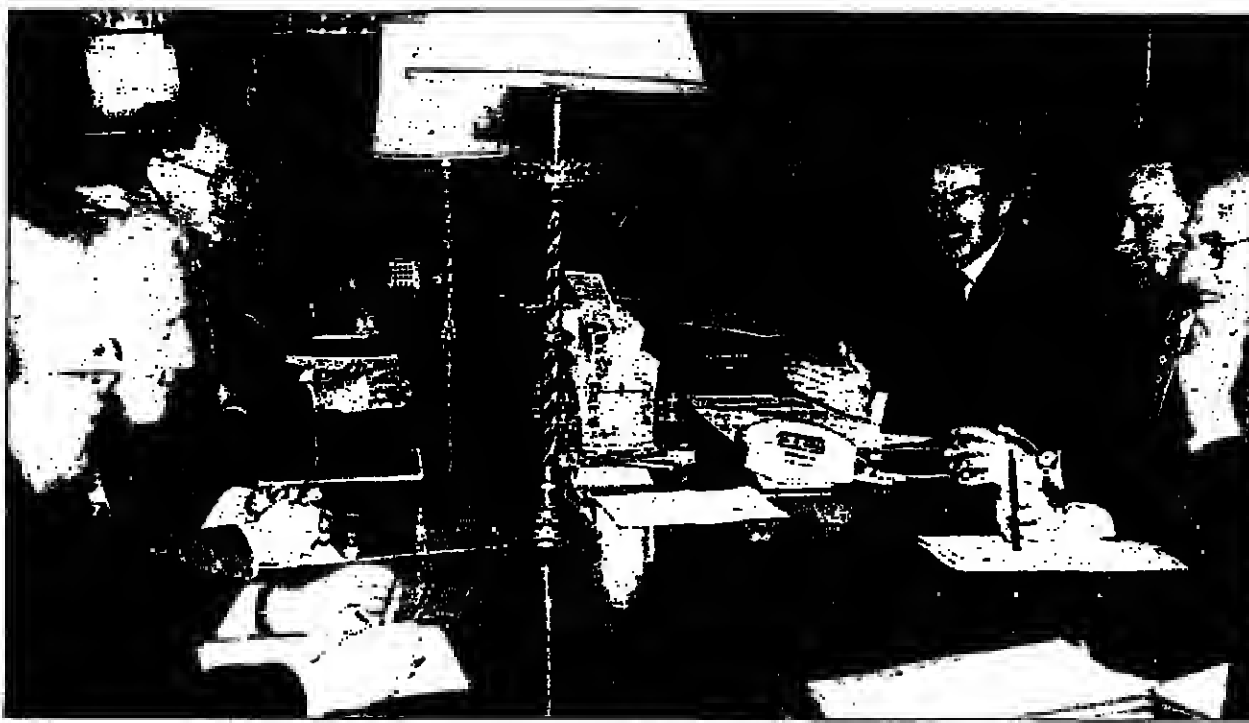
Figures to be released later this month are expected to show that total farm income

dropped to around £700 million this year, compared with just over £4 billion two years ago.

Farmers' woes are blamed mainly on the strength of the pound, which makes Britain's agricultural exports more expensive, while greatly increasing competition from imports and reducing the sterling value of EU farm subsidies.

The sterling factor has been compounded by gluts of cereals, lamb, pork and beef on world markets, owing in part to the economic turmoil in Russia and the Far East.

Last year Russia, Japan and South Korea between them bought two thirds of the EU's pigmeat exports. Those markets have now collapsed, as has demand for sheep hides from Turkish tanners who provided the Russians with sheepskin coats. When the Russian trade stopped, hide prices slumped from £8 to £10 each to virtually nothing.



Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, opposite Tony Blair at yesterday's meeting in the Commons

Leaders are brought down to earth

MANY prominent farmers were among the delegation, including:

□ Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union: aged 48, runs Home Farm, a 360-acre arable and livestock farm near Easingwold, North Yorkshire. "Two years ago I was harvesting 3.4 tonnes of cereals an acre which sold for £110 a tonne", he said. "This year I was down to 2.65 tonnes at £70 to £75."

□ Hugh Richards, Welsh chairman of the National Farmers' Union: aged 55, runs the 200-acre Hengod Fawr Farm near Llanelli, in Carmarthenshire. Has seen the price of his milk drop by 28 per cent and that of beef cattle and sheep by 35 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. "We just broke even in 1997, but this year we are making a loss", he said.

□ George Lyon, president of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland: aged 42, runs Kildavannan Farm on the island of Bute. "We are giving away old ewes for £3 or £4 a head", he said. "Three years ago they would have fetched £30."

Lords' call for medical cannabis rejected

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday rejected fresh demands for the immediate legalisation of cannabis for medical purposes.

But ministers gave a small ray of hope to sufferers by indicating that doctors might be allowed to prescribe the drug after extensive clinical trials.

George Howarth, the Home Office Minister, ruled out a call from the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee for doctors to prescribe cannabis now. The peers said thousands of people suffering muscle spasms and terminal cancer could benefit from the drug's painkilling properties.

Mr Howarth said: "It would be irresponsible to say it's OK to use it but there is no scientific evidence it will work."

While the Government's position angered patients' groups and some politicians, the British Medical Association approved, saying that said making cannabis available on prescription could delay development of more effective drugs.

SHEEP DIP VICTIMS NEGLECTED

VICTIMS of poisoning by organophosphates in sheep dip are persistently neglected by doctors who refuse to believe they are ill and fail to treat their symptoms properly, according to a report yesterday. Patients exposed to the chemicals — usually farmers — often develop severe symptoms including fatigue, headaches, depression and suicidal thoughts, but are routinely let down by GPs, hospitals and health authorities, the joint study by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Psychiatrists found.

John Newsom-Davis, professor of neurology at Oxford University and chairman of the working party, said: "The symptoms are unquestionably genuine. Sadly in many cases the NHS has not always provided the care and concern patients are looking for."

OPs are used in a wide range of pesticides, including the most common variety of sheep dip, and experts believe that prolonged or intense exposure can cause serious physical symptoms. The Pesticides Exposure Group of Sufferers said there were at least 12,000 patients with OP-related conditions in Britain, of whom at least 800 had been exposed to sheep dip. The suicide of late Labour MP Gordon McMaster — a keen gardener who had been suffering from depression — has been linked to his regular contact with OP pesticides. Gulf War syndrome, which has similar symptoms, may also be caused by OPs.

Scientists have, however, been unable to find a causal link between OPs and medical conditions, and the report, commissioned by the Department of Health, did not consider the issue. "Patients may make a strong causal link, but we cannot say there is causation for sure," Professor Newsom-Davis said.

Enrys Chapman, co-ordinator of PEGS, said finding an explicit causal link was less important than recognition from doctors that there was a real medical problem. "People feel they are knocking their heads against a brick wall, and that has to stop," she said. "The report recommended that GPs treat sufferers with sympathy and awareness of the possible dangers of OPs. It suggests national resource centres to offer doctors advice on the condition, and that GPs take a practical and uniform approach to treating symptoms. The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Liam Donaldson, said: "The working party's recommendations will be studied carefully."

Tory peers renew Euro poll battle

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Lords will again confront the Government today when Tory peers make another attempt to extend voter choice in next year's European elections. Their two previous attempts have been overturned in the House of Commons.

The Government insists on the "closed-list" system under the new system of proportional representation — voters would determine how many seats a party wins, but the parties themselves would decide which individuals actually became MEPs. The Tories want "open lists" through which voters can choose the candidates.

MPs overturned the Lords open-list amendment on Tuesday and sent the European Parliamentary Elections Bill back with a small concession, offering to review the election legislation after next summer's poll.

This is unlikely to be enough to win over the Lords.

The Government has warned that if agreement is not reached soon, the Bill introducing PR could die, throwing next summer's poll into chaos. The parties, who have already chosen their candidates for the PR system, would have to start again if first-past-the-post was retained. The Bill would die if the Commons refused to offer another compromise amendment. It could also die if agreement is not reached by the end of next week when Parliament prorogues.

William Hague yesterday accused Tony Blair in the Commons of wanting to restrict voter choice by giving power to party stooges to fix their party lists.

The Tory leader told the Prime Minister: "In the European elections next year shouldn't people be able to vote for the candidate of their choice, rather than for a party list which leaves them no such choice?"

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Coward was unfit to serve in 1914-18 war

NOEL COWARD, who portrayed a naval commander in the Second World War propaganda film *In Which We Serve*, lasted just 158 days in the Army during the 1914-1918 conflict, according to official records published yesterday.

The actor turned playwright, whose later public persona was one of supreme confidence, was discharged from the 28 (Artists) Battalion London Regiment after spending eight weeks in a training camp and then reporting sick.

Coward, who was 18 when called up for military service in March 1918, was discharged after complaining of being unable to stand noise and appearing nervous and pale in front of a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, according to documents released at the Public Record Office in Kew, south west London. The record described his condition in August 1918 as: "Looks pale, shaky and nervous. Cannot stand any noises and complains of constant headaches. Tremors of both hands plus superficial reflexes. Mental - emotional and unstable. Family history bad."

The report comments that the date of the disability is un-

Film 'commander' was discharged after complaining that he could not stand noise, reports Richard Ford

known and suggests he was suffering from it before he joined the service.

Coward had apparently told officers that when he was nine years old he had been knocked down by a bicycle and concussed and since then had suffered from headaches, vertigo and nervous debility, the record states. He had been admitted to hospital at Colchester just eight weeks after arriving at a training camp.

The medical board said the Coward, then an actor, was suffering from an hereditary condition and that his disability was permanent. He was awarded a payment of 8s 3d (41p) to be paid for 13 weeks, and he even received a Silver War Badge.

Coward went on to achieve world wide fame as the author of *Blithe Spirit*, *Private Lives* and *The Vortex* and was a friend of leading members of the Royal Family including the Queen Mother, Earl Mountbatten of Burma and

Princess Marina, the late Duchess of Kent. Coward's papers are among 750,000 relating to servicemen stored at the Public Record Office which has been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery fund to film burnt and damaged records of some 4 million soldiers who fought in the First World War.

Among other records released yesterday were the discharge papers of the artist Stanley Spencer, who joined up in July 1915 and was discharged from active service in 1919 after suffering from malaria contracted in Salonika in 1916.

Unlike Coward, however, Spencer, who had been examined and found to be suffering from malaria, was not considered unfit for military service. Instead he was transferred to the reserve.

Two veterans of the First World War were at the Public Record Office as their files were published. Albert "Smil-

er" Marshall, aged 101, recalled the final hours before the Armistice. "We were passing ten, twenty and fifty German soldiers throwing their rifles away."

"The order came from our officer that no more prisoners were to be taken. He came and told us that night that the war was over and an armistice would be signed the next morning", Mr Marshall, from Ashstead, in Surrey said.

Mr Marshall, who joined the Essex Yeomanry, said he had never known such annoyance among his comrades. "I never heard so much swearing and grumbling in my life from the soldiers who had got the Germans on the run and wanted to get to Berlin".

The War Diary of his senior officer recorded: "Battalion HQ closed at 7am. Hostilities cease at 11.00 hours today and all troops were ordered to stand fast on the line then held. Armistice between Allies and Germans was signed at 11.00 hours."

Two days later, he recalled in his diary that there had been a "general appearance parade at 9.00 hours and a general cleaning of equipment. Football games in afternoon."



Noel Coward as a naval commander in the wartime film *In Which We Serve*

BBC staff condemn bosses as arrogant

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RELATIONS between BBC executives and their staff appeared to have reached a new low yesterday after the in-house magazine described management as "arrogant, uncaring, macho, racist and misogynistic".

An annual exercise in democracy which allows members of staff to write and edit one issue of the publication, *Artel*, appeared to have backfired on executives. Staff said that managers were typically "manipulative, brutal and inverted snobs" who were obsessed with cost and were craven towards consultants.

A questionnaire was circulated by the magazine asking staff to respond anonymously. Two hundred were returned and the results reported in this week's issue - temporarily renamed *Scariel* - beneath the headline "Fear runs deep".

The cover shows a National Lottery-style finger pointing at a terrified member of staff.

Eighty eight per cent of respondents said they felt unable to express their opinion for fear of repercussions. 94 per cent had felt their job under threat at times, but 64 per cent felt afraid to leave the BBC.

Many staff emphasised that they were proud to be associated with the BBC and the article conceded that the survey did not represent the feelings of all staff.

Mark Turnbull, president of the National Union of Journalists and a BBC employee, said that the senior managers were "not people people".

"We need managers who are tuned in with the people working here. Morale is low and managers' relationships with their staff are bad because there is not enough time to talk over the issue."

"Once they get that title of manager behind them they go into a different world - an unrealistic and uncaring world."

The BBC "lacked common sense and was alienating an intelligent, enthusiastic, imaginative and innovative workforce", said the magazine, which was guest-edited by the BBC journalist Abbas Nasir.

Yesterday the BBC laughed off the survey, saying that it reflected the views of 200 out of a workforce of 20,000.

This is a self-selecting sample of 200 questionnaires," a spokesman said. "We are glad that the article states it is not representative and that Abbas Nasir pays tribute to the idea of letting staff edit one issue. He states that it allows the staff to let off steam in a harmless, even fun, way." At the end of the article is a telephone number for the Samaritans.

No more 'outing', says Sun

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

THE *Sun* announced yesterday that it had changed its policy on disclosing that certain people were homosexual and would only do so if it was strictly in the public interest.

David Yelland, the Editor, said the newspaper was "no longer in the business of destroying closet gays' lives".

The *Sun* had this week asked "Are we being run by a gay mafia?" after the Agriculture Minister admitted he was gay. Yelland has also dropped Matthew Parris, who declared on BBC2's *Newsnight* that Peter Mandelson was homosexual, as a *Sun* columnist.

A spokesman for the Trade and Industry Secretary denied that he had put any pressure on Yelland to cease Parris's employment. "There has been no contact by Peter or anyone acting on his behalf with News International founder of *The Sun*," he said. Mr Mandelson and Parris had "maintained cordial relations".

Parris, a columnist for *The Times*, said he had concluded that the decision was "not unconnected" with his actions on *Newsnight*.

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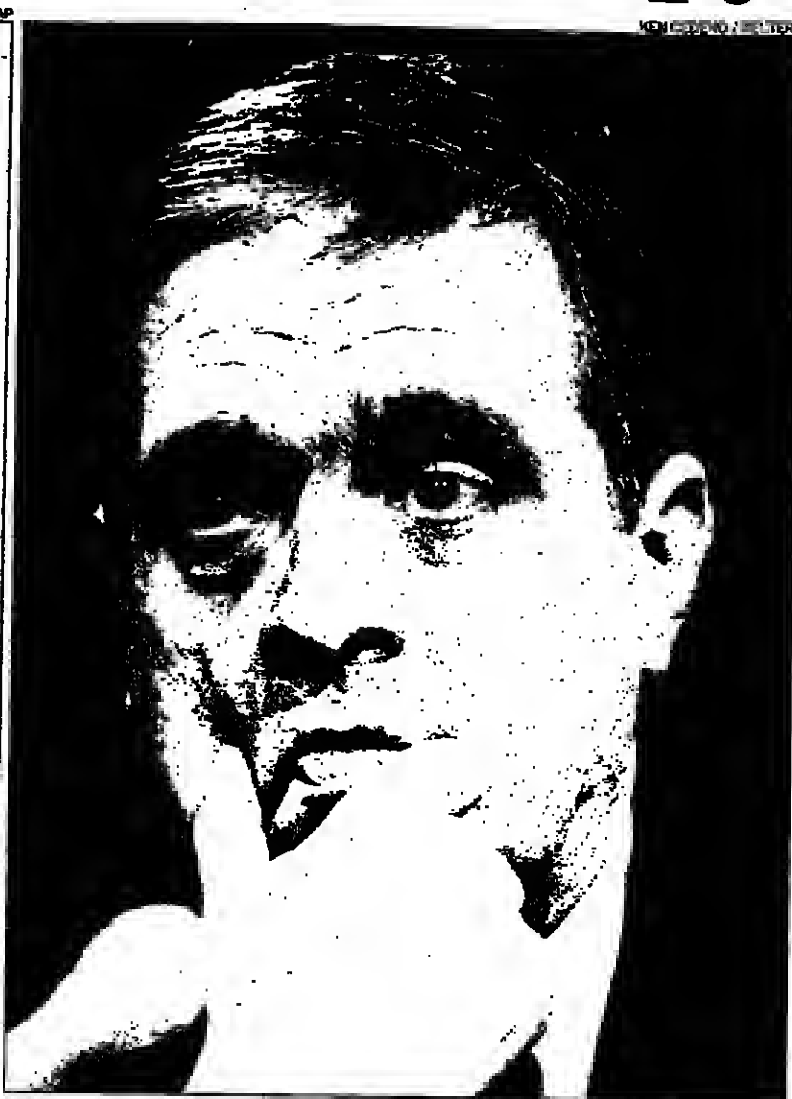
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CIA chief threatened to quit over spy

Netanyahu's ploy to free Pollard threw US agency into turmoil, writes Ian Brodie in Washington



Jonathan Pollard, left, the intelligence analyst who spied for Israel, and George Tenet, who threatened to resign as CIA Director if Pollard was freed

THE director of the CIA threatened to resign last month if President Clinton caved in to Benjamin Netanyahu's demand for the release of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew who did immense damage by selling thousands of highly sensitive US secrets to Israel.

George Tenet told Mr Clinton that he could not return to CIA headquarters, where anti-Pollard feelings run exceedingly high. There was already fury among American intelligence officials that Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, had tried to use Pollard as a last-minute bargaining chip in negotiations for a Middle East peace agreement at Wye in Maryland.

Mr Netanyahu demanded Pollard's release from a life sentence on the last morning of the conference, October 23, saying that otherwise he could not go through with a White House signing ceremony with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Angry, Mr Clinton consulted his national security advisers, including Mr Tenet. He then told Mr Netanyahu that Pollard would stay in prison, but he would review the case for the third time in five years. Only then did Mr Netanyahu withdraw his threat to scuttle the agreement.

There was no official comment on Mr Tenet's reported threat to resign — and no denial. If Mr Tenet had resigned, Mr Clinton would have had to find his fourth CIA Director in six years. Worse, the spy agency would have lost a leader who has earned credit for rallying morale.

Mr Netanyahu's play was the latest twist in an extraordinary sequence of betrayal and deceit. Perhaps most remarkable is that Israeli officials bilked the closest secrets of their most supportive ally. It was not until last May, 13 years after Pollard's arrest, that Israel admitted he had been an agent handled by high-ranking Israeli officials.

By the time the civilian Navy intelligence analyst fled to the Israeli Embassy in Washington for asylum, only to be thrown out, he had made off with perhaps the largest haul of secret material of any espionage operation against

the United States. Every weekend for 18 months he took a briefcase of documents from his office to a flat where Israeli intelligence agents set to work with a high-speed copying machine on his trove of intelligence reports, satellite photographs and intercepted Arab states' messages. The FBI and Navy intelligence estimate that he took more than 1,000 documents.

National security officials say it is impossible to overstate the damage done to US intelligence-gathering in the Middle East and possibly the former Soviet Union. Pollard sold details of chemical weapons production in Iraq and Syria as well as Libya's air-defence network. There were diagrams of the PLO headquarters in Tunis, which helped an Israeli bomb attack, as well as details of Soviet arms shipments to Syria and Pakistani efforts to build a nuclear bomb.

Pollard also supplied top-secret data on Soviet defences, including its military targets. Israel passed some of the material to Moscow as a goodwill gesture to encourage more liberal emigration policies for Soviet Jews, according to Seymour Hersh in his book *The Samson Option*.

The haul of material was so vast that the Israelis and perhaps the KGB had access to American codes and may have been able to identify "moles" working for the CIA. Israel has refused to return the documents, fuelling suspicion that some went to Moscow.

Caspar Weinberger, then US Defence Secretary, told the sentencing judge that he could not conceive of greater harm

speaks to his sister and aged parents who campaigned for his release.

He divorced his wife, who had been sentenced to five years as his accomplice, and now claims to be married to a Toronto penpal who has taken up his cause. His first seven years were spent in solitary confinement in the "super-max" prison in Marion, Illinois. He is now held in less harsh conditions in North Carolina. He is by turns irascible, repentant and defiant. He argues, with some justification, that he was double-crossed by the prosecution lawyers, who promised him a sentence of less than life in return for his plea of guilty.

Pollard also claims that the information he sold with Israel anyway. A right-wing cause célèbre in Israel, his treachery has split important American Jewish organisations.

A brilliant student, Pollard fantasised about low-level help given to the CIA by his father, Morris Pollard, a renowned microbiologist. In Pollard's schoolboy telling, his father was a CIA station chief.

Pollard read spy novels, saw himself as James Bond and bragged of cloak-and-dagger exploits. He was briefly sent for psychiatric help by the Navy, but his behaviour did not otherwise cause alarm.

Today he is overweight and balding, with straggly hair and beard. Still, he is a hero to Mr Netanyahu, who sent him a note last May. "Gather your courage and spiritus," it said. "Israel will go on working, tirelessly and dauntlessly, to bring you home."

Jerusalem: Israel said that two of its nationals detained by Cypriot police on suspicion of espionage had not been spying on Cyprus or working for Turkey. But the Foreign Ministry gave no clue to what Udi Hargov, 37, and Igal Damary, 49, were up to with listening equipment at a rented flat in a sensitive military area.

Simpson faces third 'murder trial'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

O.J. SIMPSON may lose his children after an Appeals Court demanded new custody hearings that threaten to take on the appearance of yet another murder trial.

California judges on Tuesday threw out a ruling that returned the sportsman's two children to him after he was acquitted of murdering their mother, Nicole Brown, and Ronald Goldman. Evidence that Mr Simpson was homicidal should never have been banned from the custody hearings, the judges said.

"What you'll have is a mini-trial within that trial, a third murder trial," Marjorie Fuller, the lawyer for the children, Sydney and Justin Simpson, who are now 13 and ten respectively, said yesterday.

Two years ago Judge Nancy Wienen Stock handed them back to their father after banning the "murder issue" from custody hearings. She also ruled out mention of diaries kept by Ms Brown that indicated a pattern of violent domestic abuse by Mr Simpson.

Both decisions were grave errors, the Appeals Court said. "As a matter of case law, as well as common sense, the question of whether one parent has actually murdered the other is about as relevant as it is possible to imagine in any case involving whether the surviving parent should be allowed any form of child custody," the judges ruled.

During the murder trial, the children lived with their grandparents, Louis and Juditha Brown. They returned to their father for the 1996 civil "wrongful death" trial in which he was found liable for the murders and told to pay \$33.5 million (£20 million) damages to the two victims' families.

Gladiator award: The family of an inmate shot dead in 1994 in California's Corcoran State Prison has won an out-of-court \$825,000 (£515,000) settlement. Preston Tate died in one of seven fatal exercise yard shootings as gangs were made to fight in what rogue guards called "gladiator days".

Israeli Cabinet agrees to West Bank withdrawal

Jerusalem: The divided Israeli Cabinet last night finally ratified the new US-brokered peace deal with the Palestinians after two weeks of delays and bitter disputes over security questions (Christopher Walker writes).

The majority vote in favour was secured at the third meeting on the issue. An Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank should begin next week and continue for three months, barring suicide bombings

threatened by Islamic militants. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, summoned yesterday's meeting after a 15-minute telephone discussion with President Clinton, fuelling speculation that the US leader had told the Israelis that failure to implement the Wye agreement was making it more difficult for Washington to win Arab support for military strikes against Iraq.

Under a revised timetable, Cabinet approval is to be followed by a two-day debate in the Knesset beginning on Monday. Mr Netanyahu is guaranteed victory because the main opposition Labour Party has offered him support against ultra-nationalists set to vote against the plan.

The first part of the agreed Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank should begin on November 16, according to the Wye timetable. But Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has already agreed to a short delay by the Israeli side. It is unclear how any US and British attack on Iraq would affect the process.

As yesterday's Cabinet session began, an official in the Prime Minister's office said that Mr Netanyahu had received new assurances from the Americans about Mr Arafat's crackdown on Islamic terrorists and that Palestinian actions on the ground had been satisfactory.

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998

BBC staff condemn bosses as arrogant

By CAROL MIDDLETON
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RELATIONS between BBC executives and their staff improved to have reached a low yesterday after the magazine department's management as "arrogant, unfeeling, racist and unprofessional".

An annual exercise in which staff were asked to write and sign a letter to the publishers appeared to have been a success. Staff who were not happy with the magazine's management were told to write to the publishers. Staff who were not happy with the magazine's management were told to write to the publishers.

more ing. Sun

UN withdrawal puts Saddam in firing line

A DEFIANT Iraq was yesterday given a signal that punitive military strikes might be imminent when the United Nations unexpectedly withdrew all its remaining weapons inspectors from the country and America prepared to send more warplanes to the Gulf.

The United States gave a warning that there would be no ultimatum or deadline if it decided to attack. "From my perspective I would say Saddam Hussein has been given adequate warning. We have seen very strong resolve on behalf of the UN," General Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said.

Fifty aircraft, including radar-evading Stealth bombers, were preparing to boost America's considerable firepower in the region. In other signs that Washington was about to use force, non-essential staff at the American embassies in Kuwait and Israel were told they could leave. Americans were also urged to exercise caution in Egypt in case of attacks to coincide with the November 17 anniversary of the terrorist massacre of tourists in Luxor.

The surprise evacuation of more than 100 arms inspectors to Jordan and Bahrain as a "precautionary move", came after late-night consultations between UN and American officials. Another 300 UN staff, apparently aid workers, were also withdrawn. The pullout suggested that the UN had given

Washington says there will be no warning, writes Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia

up hope Saddam would rescind his October 31 decision to halt all co-operation with weapons inspectors which triggered the latest crisis.

Unscrambled, the UN Special Commission charged with disarming Iraq, had begun to scale down its presence, but the wholesale withdrawal was unexpected. Baghdad was quick to point out that the inspectors had not been expelled.

With no mediation under way, it appeared only an eleven-hour Iraqi climbdown could avert military strikes. Baghdad had made clear its willingness to bargain its way out of the crisis by demanding that the Security Council review what progress it has made in dismantling its weapons of mass destruction.

However it insisted this must lead to the lifting of the eight-year-old trade embargo. Washington said there was nothing to negotiate while Iraq showed no sign of blinking. "We hope a strike will not

take place, but if it happens we will defend ourselves and our country," said Khalid Shahab al-Douri, a head of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament.

Iraqi officials were hoping Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, would repeat a high-profile mission he made to Baghdad in February which averted an American attack after a prolonged confrontation over the inspection of Saddam's palaces. But Mr Annan, who is in North Africa, has made clear his unwillingness to stake his prestige on a second intervention.

Arab leaders have offered no public support for using force against Iraq. While Gulf states have little affection for Saddam, they are aware that public opinion is sympathetic to the plight of Iraqis struggling to survive under the crippling trade embargo.

Regional commentators have also branded Israel the real enemy and expressed frustration at Washington's refusal to persuade the Jewish state to abide by Security Council resolutions calling for it to withdraw from occupied Arab lands. Gulf leaders would be more supportive of military action if they were convinced Washington had a coherent strategy to oust the Iraqi leader, diplomats said.

"Military action now will do nothing," said one Arab diplomat. "The Iraqi people are behind Saddam on this one because they want sanctions lifted and the Americans have refused to give any light at the end of the tunnel." A limited attack risks enhancing Saddam's prestige in the region which could embolden him to pursue further acts of defiance, he added.

Travellers from Baghdad said some Iraqis would welcome an American attack if it weakened Saddam's grip on power. "They know they will never be able live normally while he rules," said one Iraqi businessman in Jordan.

Cat and mouse, page 24
Leading article, page 25



ALLIED FORCES READY FOR ACTION

RAF IN GULF AND TURKEY
RAF Tornado GR1s at Al-Jaysh al-Fatah air base, Iraq. The RAF also has a squadron of Tornado GR1s in Turkey. VCOB tankers, Bahrain and Turkey.

US AIR FORCE
US sends 129 extra warplanes to join the 280 already stationed in the Gulf including:
12 B52 bombers equipped with 96 Tomahawk cruise missiles
9 B1B bombers
12 F157A stealth fighters plus additional F15, F16 and F18 attack jets, together with support aircraft and helicopters
2 Patriot anti-missile batteries

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USS Enterprise
12 US Navy nuclear-powered missile cruisers
USS Zumwalt
12 US Navy nuclear-powered missile destroyers
USS Arleigh Burke
12 US Navy nuclear-powered missile destroyers
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NAVAL FORCES HEADING FOR THE GULF

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American reinforcements move into Gulf as clock ticks towards airstrikes

By MICHAEL DYNES

MILITARY ACTION

PRESIDENT Clinton's decision to order a second aircraft carrier group to the Gulf in response to the latest standoff with President Saddam Hussein over weapons inspections appears to have set the clock ticking towards Western airstrikes against Iraq.

The assault could take place any time over the next two weeks although the night of November 18-19 is viewed as a possible date as it coincides with a new moon, allowing the allies to bomb under cover of darkness.

The USS Enterprise carrier battle group, and the USS Belleau Wood amphibious group arrive in the Gulf on November 23 and 26 respectively.

Washington has still to decide whether they will replace or join the USS Eisenhower and the USS Essex battle groups, totalling some 23 vessels already in place — which would double US naval power in the region.

Last week the Pentagon quietly despatched USS Anzio, a guided missile cruiser, to sail from the Mediterranean to the Gulf. The Anzio's arrival has boosted to eight the number of warships armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles in the region. The missiles would form the spearhead of an air assault.

land, continue to sail in Gulf waters as part of British efforts to monitor and enforce United Nations' sanctions against Iraq. Britain has 12 RAF Tornado GR1 bombers and 400 personnel stationed at Ali al-Salem airbase in Kuwait. The RAF has six Tornado GR1s in Saudi Arabia, four Jaguars based at Incirlik in Turkey, and two VC10 tankers stationed in Bahrain. The 12 British Tornados are part of a joint British-US force of some 180 strike aircraft, including air-to-air, air-ground, dual role, support and attack helicopters.

Although the build-up of American forces falls far short of the \$14 billion (£850 million) deployment during the last big military standoff

in February, the Pentagon is in a position to augment its firepower rapidly.

Yesterday afternoon US Air Force officials deployed an Air Expeditionary Force of land-based warplanes, including 12 B52 bombers equipped with 96 air-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles, six B1 heavy bombers, 12 F117A stealth aircraft, and two Patriot anti-missile batteries to Bahrain and Kuwait. They depart over the next few days.

Another 3,000 American troops were also ordered to the Gulf, joining 23,500 stationed in the region, the Pentagon said.

Washington has now more than doubled the Tomahawk cruise missiles it had in February — to between 250 and 350.

Britain and US claim mandate to attack

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and America insist that no further United Nations resolutions are needed before any military strike against Iraq. But they are likely to meet strong opposition in Moscow, which would condemn any action as a violation of international order.

Britain insists that it has a "satisfactory legal base" for any option to deal with Saddam Hussein's refusal to co-operate further with UN arms inspectors. This is based on a combination of two Security Council resolutions: 1154, passed at the conclusion of the last crisis with Iraq in February, and 1205, passed last week, which found Iraq to be in violation of its obligation to

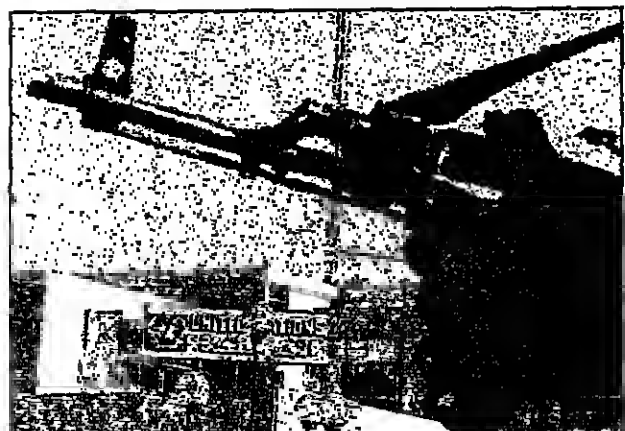
DIPLOMACY

allow inspectors unfettered access. Britain, which voiced scepticism that Saddam would stick to his agreement with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, insisted on the passage of a resolution threatening the "severest consequences" if Baghdad did not honour the deal. The Government had wanted specific reference to the use of force, but toned this down to get Moscow's approval.

But the Foreign Office is in no doubt that the phrase "severest consequences" clearly implies military action. And it says that last week's resolution was unambiguous in finding Saddam in violation of the agreement reached with Mr Annan that averted threatened airstrikes at the time. No further UN resolutions are therefore needed, Britain insists.

Washington also believes it has the authority to attack Iraq but puts less emphasis on UN approval.

The main opposition to military action came last time from France and Russia. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, says that both countries have been particularly angered by Saddam's latest defiance. But Russian sources say Moscow still opposes force.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard outside the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad as staff moved out yesterday

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China faces tumult as it prepares to mark 50 years of communism



Jiang wants to be seen as a world statesman

AS CHINA begins elaborate preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Communist state, its leaders are grappling with formidable political and economic problems, diplomats said yesterday. While many believe that China will avoid the political crisis that the former Soviet Union faced a decade ago before its demise, some of the same problems are inherent here, not least in the inefficiency of the state sector, resulting in millions of workers being laid off.

Reform has exposed the nation's economic frailty, writes James Pringle in Beijing

Reform has exposed the nation's economic frailty, writes James Pringle in Beijing. Reform has exposed the nation's economic frailty, writes James Pringle in Beijing. Reform has exposed the nation's economic frailty, writes James Pringle in Beijing.

cratic Party. Chinese leaders fear it could become a focal point for the legions of unemployed whose random demonstrations across China are now unco-ordinated. But the leaders are pulling their punches. "Beijing cannot crack down now like it used to," said one envoy. "It has signed United Nations covenants, trying to give the impression that China is more open. Yet it fears any challenge to its rule that might galvanise support among disaffected workers and landless peasants."

Hence Xu Wenli, once China's "special prisoner No 2" who spent years in solitary confinement, is harassed by police, but at the same time remains at liberty even as he pushes for registration of the new party. As for Mr Zhu, who is known as "The Boss" for his no-nonsense style, his woes are economic, mainly because of the huge state sector but also due to the economic crisis in Asia. On becoming Prime Minister in March, he admitted the immensity of his task when he said that, no matter what lay ahead of him, "a minefield or a bottomless chasm", there was no turning back.

Now, however, faced with the risk of millions more unemployed as state-run industries close under earlier reforms he so boldly announced, a creeping devaluation of the yuan, falling sales and insolvent state banks, Mr Zhu has reversed pledges to dismantle the state sector. "The political price is just too high," said one envoy. The People's Republic has faced severe difficulties before, and no one here believes that it is about to go the way of the former Soviet Union, but most analysts agree that the run-up to the 50th anniversary celebrations is likely to be crucial.

Blair to fight EU on works councils

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Government is heading for its first law-making clash with its European Union partners after the Brussels Commission issued plans yesterday for compulsory works councils, including stiff penalties for companies that impose redundancies without giving early warning to employees. Despite his pro-European credentials, Tony Blair has put the EU on notice that Britain will fight the directive on mandatory worker consultation in domestic companies, which the Commission unveiled under the terms of the "Social Chapter" of the Maastricht treaty. Britain signed up to the chapter last year. In a British political twist, the directive was backed in the Commission by Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader. The only opposition came from Sir Leon Brittan, Trade Commissioner and a former Tory minister, and Martin Bangemann, the German Industry Commissioner who hails from the political right. Britain still hopes to rally a sufficient minority of EU governments to block the directive, which requires companies employing at least 50 workers to keep them informed on company plans. However, EU officials believe the law will be passed. It will cover 47 per cent of all EU workers, but 3 per cent of firms, the great majority having fewer than 50 employees.

Italian police name 'last of the godfathers'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN police cracking down on the Mafia said yesterday that they finally had "documentary proof" that the last "Godfather" still at large was masterminding Cosa Nostra's operations as the *capo dei capi*. They said Bernardo Provenzano, 67, was behind a Mafia change of tactics designed to ensure that the organisation survived. After a sweep across Sicily in which 50 mafiosi were arrested, anti-Mafia police admitted they still did not know the whereabouts of Provenzano, who has eluded capture for 30 years. Eleven letters from Provenzano giving instructions to local Mafia bosses were found during a raid on Mafia hideouts in Sicily this week. "Not only do we know he is alive, we have proof that he is running the operation," Guido La Forte, the anti-Mafia prosecutor in Palermo, said. Italian authorities have gradually decapitated the Mafia in a drive against organised crime over the past six years, arresting boss after boss. But Provenzano - known as "The Tractor" because of his ruthless and brutal methods - has eluded them. Police are not even sure what he now looks like. "Wanted" posters of Provenzano carry an out-of-date photograph

showing a fresh-faced young man in his 30s. The crackdown on the Mafia began in earnest in 1992, after the murder of two widely admired anti-Mafia judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, and Mafia bomb attacks on targets such as the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Both the killings and the bombings aroused anger and revulsion, and police tracked down the then Mafia Godfather, Salvatore "Totò" Riina, in 1993. With the help of thousands of state-protected *pentiti*, or supergrass, a gang of Mafia bosses has since been put behind bars.



Provenzano: on 'wanted' list for past 30 years

But anti-Mafia investigators have said that although the Mafia is significantly weakened, it is almost certainly regrouping as "Mafia Mark II", probably under the elusive Provenzano, a former farm labourer from the Mafia heartland of Corleone who has been in hiding since 1969, when he shot dead a *capitane* colonel. He has since been convicted in absentia several times for murder. Signor La Forte said Provenzano, also known as The Accountant because of his shrewd management of money-laundering rings, was clearly "at the summit of all the Sicilian clans". The letters found by police, which are written in old-fashioned and at times ungrammatical Italian, indicate that Provenzano was behind a change of tactic three years ago, when he urged local clan leaders to focus their energies on Mafia "business", meaning extortion rackets, bribery and drug-running. Giancarlo Caselli, the chief prosecutor in Palermo, said Provenzano was "a very dangerous man of great criminal intelligence" capable of adapting the Mafia's methods and structure to ensure its survival. "That is why we have to find him."



Keizo Obuchi reviews a guard of honour with Yuri Maslyukov, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday

Yeltsin to offer Japan Kuriles deal

FROM ANNA BILINDY IN MOSCOW



PRESIDENT YELTSIN is expected today to discuss the disputed territory of the Kurile Islands with Keizo Obuchi, the Japanese Prime Minister, his first foreign guest for weeks. Although the four far eastern islands were seized by Russia at the end of the Second World War, the poverty-stricken islanders recently signed a petition in support of leasing the Kuriles back to Japan. To surrender the territory would be too great a shame for the already humiliated Russian Government to bear, but

it is likely that the Russians will put Kurile business proposals to Japan on terms so favourable that the Japanese will be unable to refuse. The

proposed deals will fall short of handing the islands back but will achieve the desired effect of economic colonisation by Japan. Viktor Pavlatenko, of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences, believes that Mr Obuchi's visit, which began yesterday, will not be purely symbolic but will result in bilateral economic agreements. "Russia wants to manufacture goods on the Kuriles but lacks the money to build the required factories. The Government intends to offer the Japanese the opportunity to build these factories and to control the shares. This way they can export not only to Japan but to other countries as well and create a mutual profit," Mr Pavlatenko says. Vladimir Zema, head of the South Kurile district administration, said that fishermen had been driven to "the verge of extinction" by the indifference of the Moscow authorities to their plight. Most islanders feel that their lives would be immeasurably improved if the seized territories were returned to Japan. The Japanese response to Russian proposals is expected to be ready in time for Mr Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo next spring or summer.

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Banana row puts skids under US deal

By CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, President of the European Commission, appealed yesterday to President Clinton to halt a brewing transatlantic trade war over bananas that could cost Britain up to £17 million a year.

If Washington fails to call off a planned £720-million retaliation against the European Union, Brussels would be forced to start proceedings against America at the World Trade Organisation, EU officials said.

The long-simmering banana feud flared on Tuesday when America listed goods - from French wine to British tweed jackets - which would be subject to 100 per cent duty from February. It is upset at the EU's alleged failure to comply with a WTO ruling against a regime that favours bananas grown in the former European colonies of the Caribbean and Africa over South America's crop, much of which is marketed by US companies.

Sir Leon Brittan, EU Trade Commissioner, believes the row is driven by the power banana companies wield over Congress.

Mr Santer has appealed to Mr Clinton, saying that American action against the EU "would be a grave political misjudgment at a time when we should be working together... to alleviate the world's economic difficulties".

Renato Ruggiero, chief of WTO - successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - yesterday urged the trading "superpowers" to sort out the problem.

As well as wine, cheese, kitchen equipment and machinery, the US list covers "festival, carnival or other entertainment articles including magic tricks and practical joke activities".

Celebrities flock to 'biblical' catastrophe

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN TEGUCIGALPA

AID may be slow in reaching hurricane-ravaged Honduras, but the celebrities are arriving in droves.

First it was George Bush, the former US President, who visited at the weekend. On his heels came another two large United States aid delegations yesterday, led by Tipper Gore, wife of Vice-President Al Gore, and Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross and wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole.

"The world must know the tragedy in Honduras is of biblical proportions," Mrs Gore said after flying over the devastated area. "We are here today because we are neighbours who care and because we are all Americans."

The American response to the disaster stepped up this week, seemingly prodded by the flood of aid from less expected sources, including Britain and its European Union partners, as well as Mexico and Canada.

Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, was due to arrive in Honduras yesterday, to be followed next week by Hillary Clinton and President Chirac of France.

The World Bank has announced it is redirecting loans to provide \$20 million (£12.5 million) in immediate help to Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Britain, France and Germany are also leading the debate over a moratorium on Honduras's huge \$4 billion foreign debt. France has written off its

\$101 million debts from Honduras and Nicaragua. Britain has dedicated £10 million to a debt relief fund being set up through the World Bank.

Honduran officials criticised the Americans for their initially lukewarm response to the disaster, deriding a check for \$125,000 from the US ambassador here. Many Hondurans were shocked that their country, a key ally of the US in Central America's civil wars in the 1980s, was not deemed worthy of greater support.

Despite the large US mili-

tary presence based here, the Americans have found themselves outnumbered by troops, aircraft, helicopters and warships from Britain, Mexico, Canada and France.

But this week the US effort kicked into high gear. The Clinton Administration announced on Tuesday it was increasing its contribution to the region to \$80 million in short-term humanitarian relief. A boatload of food supplies donated by the American Red Cross was due to arrive yesterday. "It's essential that the US

lead the way to give these governments the resources they need - and don't have - to rebuild and replan in a more sustainable way," said Brian Atwood, head of the US Agency of International Development.

American officials may not say it publicly, but much of their effort is driven by the growing Hispanic constituency in the US - many of them refugees from the Central American wars - and the politically sensitive issue of illegal immigration from Latin America's poorest countries.

The fast-growing British aid appeal is being matched by the American Red Cross. "We are trying to raise \$6 million and we are already well past half that," said Christopher Thomas, an American Red Cross spokesman.

Although some have criticised the slow distribution of the aid, both in Honduras and Nicaragua, relief workers say damage to the local infrastructure of roads and bridges, has inevitably hampered their efforts. "Have we run into logistical problems? Yes. Is everything running smoothly? No," Mr Thomas said. But he added: "It's amazing what they [the Hondurans] have done, considering the scope of the disaster."

The Red Cross is opening offices in Honduras and Nicaragua, and plans to stay for the next year. "We want to make sure the aid is delivered," Mr Thomas said. So far, the organisation was happy with what it had seen. "It's been the most open process."



Tipper Gore, wife of US Vice-President Al Gore, looks down on the Honduran capital from a helicopter



A lighthouse and pier in South Haven, Lake Michigan, are engulfed by huge waves during a storm yesterday which saw near-hurricane force winds battering the area. Overnight, one buoy on the lake recorded 20ft waves every nine seconds

OPEC demands compensation for global warming curbs

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES

OIL-producing nations demanded compensation yesterday from the rest of the world for cash losses linked to fighting global warming.

They astonished delegates to a United Nations climate change conference here by claiming a share of what is likely to become a multibillion-pound fund being set up under the UN Climate Change Conven-

tion. The fund, called the Clean Development Mechanism, will allow rich nations to build clean power stations in the developing world and claim carbon credits to offset their emissions at home. A percentage of the funds will be used to help poor countries to adapt to rising sea levels, floods, drought and other effects of climate change.

But yesterday in Buenos Aires, OPEC nations, spearheaded by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, argued that reducing the threat of global warm-

ing would lead to a sharp cut in oil demand over the coming decades. This would damage their economies, forcing them to adapt and thus giving them the right to a payout from the Clean Development Mechanism. The move, which includes Qatar, Venezuela and Nigeria, was attacked by Dr Ute Collier, climate change policy officer with the World Wide Fund for Nature.

She said yesterday: "It is scandalous. These are some of the countries with the highest per capita incomes

in the world wanting to take money meant for those with the poorest per capita income."

Dr Collier conceded that the right of the oil producers to try to claim compensation was part of the Climate Change Convention when it was drawn up in Rio in 1992. "It was a mistake. But what it would mean would be British and other industrialised nations' taxpayers compensating petrol countries."

Edward Lowassa, Environment and Poverty Alleviation Minister for

Tanzania, said the OPEC move amounted to economic warfare. Mr Lowassa said that his country was still reeling from storms and floods last year. Railway track and main roads had been washed away in an event linked to climate change.

The oil producers' move is being orchestrated by Don Pearlman, a US lawyer who advises Kuwait. Green groups call him "the high priest of the carbon club".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, dismissed the oil produc-

ers' move, saying that he believed the OPEC move was "not a runner. But I do not want to get in the veto game: it is in the treaty."

The wrangle came as President Menem of Argentina told the delegates representing 180 nations that they should focus on the damage that would result if the conference failed. He said Argentina would announce soon a voluntary greenhouse gas emission target. America hopes that more developing nations will follow suit.

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Strike

Jakarta troops fire on students

Pak

Strikers challenge Mugabe

ZIMBABWE was paralysed yesterday as workers throughout the country supported a call by the labour movement to strike in protest over soaring prices and President Mugabe's mishandling of the economy.

Business and industrial centres in all key urban areas were deserted, while townships were filled with thousands of riot police and soldiers with automatic rifles and machineguns. Harare's volatile townships were tense.

In the eastern city of Mutema, a man aged 20 was killed and an unknown number of

Zimbabwe soldiers kill protester as unions demand price cuts and wage rises, writes Jan Raath in Harare

People injured when soldiers opened fire on a mob which stoned cars and looted a petrol station. Police said the soldiers had fired into the air and the man was killed by a stray bullet. Mobs also rioted in Marondera, 45 miles east of Harare, but were dispersed by police.

The industrial action is the first in a series of strikes that the Zimbabwe Congress of

Trade Unions (ZCTU) says will be held every Wednesday until the Government reverses a 70 per cent fuel price increase imposed on October 31, raises wages by 20 per cent and negotiates with unions and the private sector for comprehensive economic reforms.

"We will continue until all our problems have been solved," said Morgan Tsvangirai, secretary-general of the ZCTU. "We see pay rises as a temporary measure. What we want is to be able to sit at the negotiating table with the Government and employers to find long-term solutions."

Initially, Chen Chimutengwende, the Information Minister, declared that "workers are very much opposed to the strike", and said the Government would not reduce the price of fuel. But as the huge response to the strike call became apparent, the Government called in union and private sector bosses for talks. However, when they arrived,

they were told the meeting had been cancelled. No explanation was given.

Mr Tsvangirai said: "They think they are immune to pressure. The stayaway will go ahead next week unless there are other developments." He said he believed that Mr Mugabe had cancelled the talks.

The labour action is the most serious challenge to Mr Mugabe in his 18-year rule.

"The whip-hand is with the unions now and the only reasonable thing the Government can do is to concede," a Western diplomat said. "The trouble is, Mugabe could very easily

try to get tough, and that could be a disaster. It's a very tight situation."

The white community in Marondera, for weeks the scene of confrontations between white farmers and squatters, has been stunned by the murder of an elderly white widow who lived alone on her farm. Officials of the Commercial Farmers' Union said the body of Sylvia Jackson was found in the ashes of her home in the early morning. Mrs Jackson's was one of numerous farms in the area to have been invaded this year by squatters.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cheated Beijing investors protest

Beijing: About 200 angry investors cheated in a multimillion-pound futures market scam marched through the Chinese capital, but the police formed a human wall to keep them away from Tiananmen Square (James Pringle writes).

Thousands of workers invested their life savings in the Beijing-based Xin Guo Da futures company, attracted by the promise of monthly interest payments of up to 30 per cent. The firm, which was run by a Taiwan resident, closed without warning in August. The demonstration ended at the offices of Xinhua where the protesters said that the news agency had reported unfairly on the case. They added that the Government was trying to wash its hands of responsibility.

Turkish bank scandal

Istanbul: Turkey's three-party coalition was on the verge of collapse after accusations that officials had conspired with business figures and the criminal underworld to fix the public auction of a state bank for £35 million (Andrew Finkel writes). Deniz Baykal, leader of a fourth party, threatened to withdraw support unless Mesut Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, resigned today. The Democratic Party promised its MPs a free vote should the Cabinet brave a confidence motion.

China rebukes Clinton

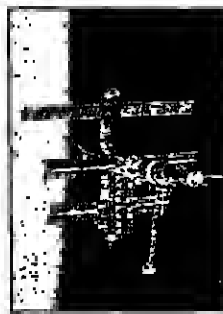
Beijing: China reacted angrily to a meeting between President Clinton and the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan leader, at the White House (James Pringle writes). It also lodged a protest over a meeting in Taipei between Bill Richardson, US Energy Secretary, and President Lee Teng Hui. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province. The Foreign Ministry said: "We cannot accept this." The meeting with the Dalai Lama may set back hope of an initiative on the future of occupied Tibet.

'Kidnap' man found

Johannesburg: A man believed to have been captured during an attack on an Angolan diamond mine has walked out of the jungle unharmed, the Canadian mining firm said. Franco Atunes, an Angolan holding South African residence status, entered the mining town of Lucaipa, about 12 miles southeast of the Yewene mine. He was among five employees believed to have been captured by armed men who attacked the mine on Sunday, killing eight, including two Britons. (Reuters)

Screw loose on Mir

Moscow: Russian space officials said Gennadi Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev, two cosmonauts on the Mir space station, right, completed a difficult six-hour spacewalk despite being thwarted in one job by the lack of a screwdriver. Itar-Tass said they fulfilled several tasks, including installing a device made by French schoolchildren to collect meteorite fragments. A French cosmonaut will retrieve them when he visits Mir early next year. (Reuters)



Rebels firebomb car

Algiers: Suspected Muslim rebels stopped a car, hosed the vehicle with petrol and set it ablaze, burning to death three occupants, newspapers reported. In another attack, dissidents stormed a hamlet in the western province of Tlemcen, slashing the throats of three villagers, including two girls aged two and 13. The attackers shot and wounded two other villagers as they fled and set off a bomb when an ambulance passed, wounding a doctor. (Reuters)

Iran star's best shot

Tehran: An Iranian footballer has been exempted from military service for scoring a goal in a World Cup match against the United States. Mehdi Mahdavi-Kia, 22, scored Iran's second goal in their historic 2-1 victory in France in June. The star, known as the "Bull", has been sought by several top foreign clubs, but could not leave the country because he had not completed mandatory military service. (AFP)

Jakarta troops fire on students

By DAVID WATTS

TROOPS opened fire as students marched on the Indonesian parliament yesterday demanding wholesale political reform and completion of the country's unfinished democratic revolution.

There were no reports of casualties among the 2,000 marchers but tensions heightened after a car driven by students crashed into a roadblock, injuring three troops. The military responded with volleys of shots over the students' heads. Other students were viciously beaten by security forces.

The rise in political tensions come as a three-day meeting of the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly debates reform of the political system. The students are suspicious that the assembly members - mostly remnants from the defunct Suharto regime - will shrink from the task of transforming Indonesia into a democracy and ending the military's presence in parliament. The military holds 75 seats. The meeting is also due to set dates for parliamentary and presidential elections.

President Habibie is proposing elections for a new parliament next May, a presidential poll in December of next year and a two five-year term limit on presidents. Parliament is also due to rewrite legislation which now provides for only three political parties, including the ruling Golkar Party. Parties have been unable to organise on a nationwide basis and all electoral candidates in the past have been subject to screening by the military.

Today's Indonesia has an uncanny resemblance to the Sukarno era of the early 1960s when a plethora of parties resulted in political chaos. There are now more than 60 parties in post-Suharto, Indonesia. None of the new ones is represented in the parliament.



A Buddhist monk lands a karate chop on a bodyguard hired to protect leading monks at Chogye Temple in Seoul yesterday on the eve of elections to choose the head of South Korea's largest Buddhist congregation. About 500 dissidents fought their way through a

Rebel monks capture temple

platoon of 200 bodyguards, hired by Song Wol-ju, the Chogye Order's leader. Scampering on ladders and breaking through the five-storey temple's

windows, the rebels threw out the venerable Song's supporters - who tried to repel them with water hoses - in a bid to force him not to run today as a

candidate to stay Most Venerable of the Chogye Order. The sect restricts office holders to two terms, but Venerable Song, seeking a third, claims time spent abroad after disagreements with the previous Government should not count. (Reuters)

Pakistan offers to end nuclear arms race

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

PAKISTAN has offered not to deploy nuclear weapons if India promises to follow suit. It is the first sign of hope that the two countries might be persuaded to curb their race to become the first to deploy nuclear arms.

"We are willing not to deploy nuclear weapons if India would do the same," Sarraj Aziz, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, said in an interview with the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan had proposed to India last month "a framework that we call strategic restraint and we hope India will respond to that". The inter-

view was clearly designed to create a more co-operative atmosphere before Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, meets President Clinton in Washington next month.

Mr Clinton's decision last weekend partly to lift sanctions against India and Pakistan, imposed after both countries detonated nuclear devices last May, has been designed both to make it more politically possible for Islamabad and Delhi to make concessions and to save Pakistan from collapse. The sanctions have severely hurt an already shattered economy, whereas India's much larger and more protected economy had barely been affected.

Mr Aziz said that there was a long

way to go before there could be an agreement on non-deployment. "One should not pin too high a hope (on the US visit) because the issues are complex," he said.

Pakistan is expected to agree to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in response to the easing of sanctions and India probably will follow suit late next year. A ban on fissile materials under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, however, is likely to prove more difficult to attain since both countries seem determined to press ahead with their nuclear weapons programmes. India has pledged never to export nuclear materials or expertise.

Mr Clinton eased the sanctions after

saying that both countries had moved towards agreeing not to carry out further nuclear tests. The US Embassy in Delhi said that "Washington appreciates India's commitment to non-proliferation, reflected in its effective system of export controls and applauds India's support for enhancing its export-control system".

Pakistan has technically defaulted already on some of its overseas debts as it wrestles with the worst economic crisis in its 51-year history as a state. There have been fears of nationwide street protests because of the soaring prices of essential goods since the nuclear blasts and the imposition of international penalties.

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Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on seaweed and cellulite; prostate cancer; children and discipline; hepatitis B; the benefits of tea

Is kelp a magical cure for cellulite?

The only obvious association between the sheep nibbling seaweed on the shores of the Island of Scalpay and catwalk fashion models is that both are thin. Even so, shepherds in the Highlands and islands swear that the fleece of sheep that have grazed on bladderwrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*), locally known as kelp, has a quality all of its own, and that the seaweed improves the flavour of the meat and the general health of the stock.

Our forebears were not dismissive of the virtues of kelp. It was thought to relieve arthritis and to combat obesity and goitre. Its effect on cellulite was unknown but, in those Rubenesque times, a bit of subcutaneous fat was all to the good. Kelp had other uses, too. It was sold for fodder, as fuel and as a source of iodine and potash in the 18th and early 19th centuries, when it provided a remarkable income for the Macdonalds of Scalpay. Not only the sheep thrived, for the son of the house became Wellington's adjutant-general, and his son the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

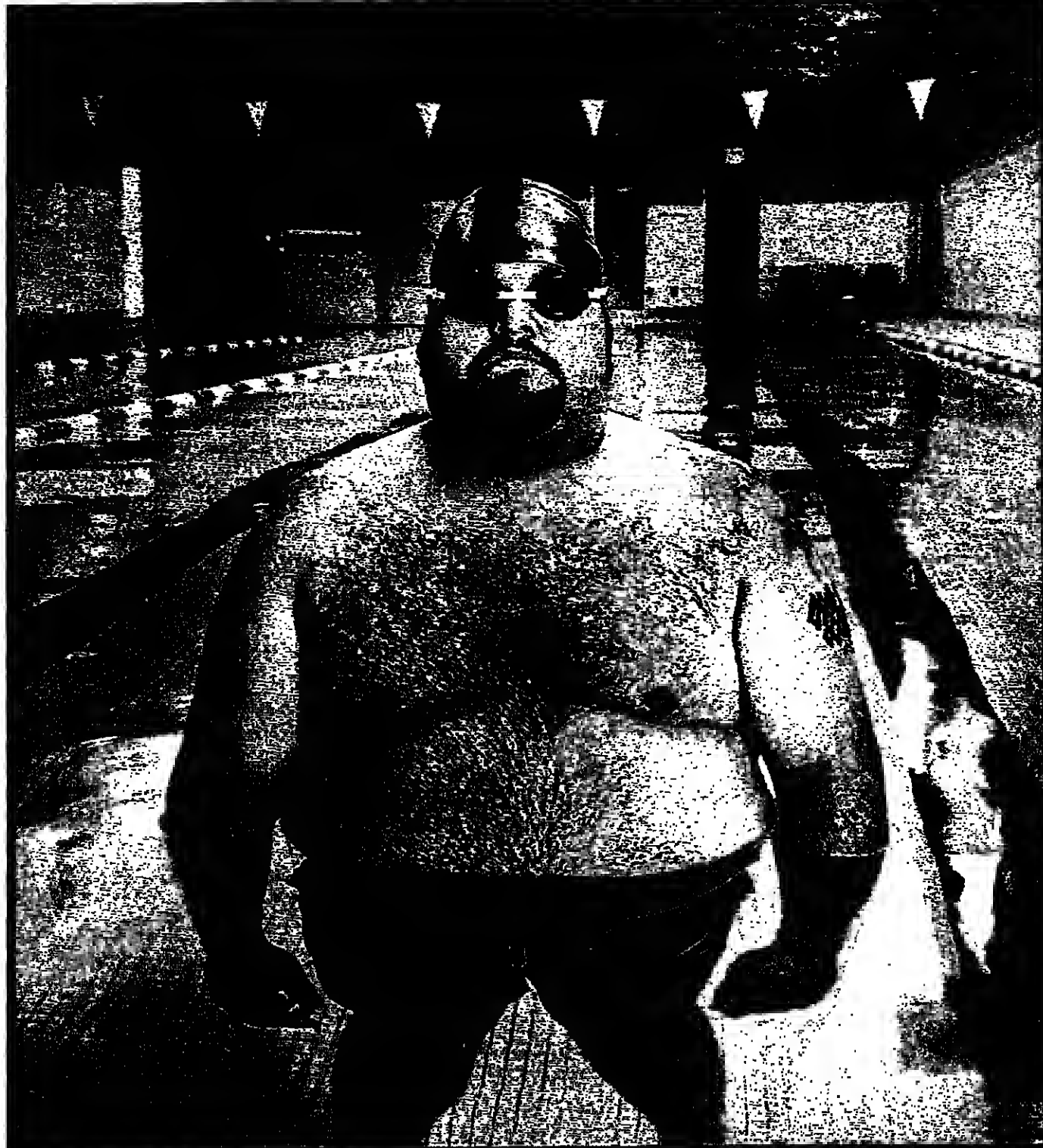
Now almost magical powers are again being claimed for kelp, as it is one of the main constituents of Cellasene capsules, which have taken Australia by storm. It has been reported this week that

these capsules will achieve miracles for women suffering from what fashion writers term "cellulite". It is said that Cellasene tablets, manufactured in Italy, are disappearing as quickly from pharmacy shelves in Australia as fat is from beneath the skin of thighs, hips and arms of the overweight.

The herbal capsules do not only contain seaweed. Another constituent is ginkgo biloba extract, which, it is recorded, has been prepared from the leaves of the Chinese fossil tree for more than 2,800 years. Ginkgo biloba is recommended for ageing patients whose memory is falling from a diminishing cerebral blood supply, as well as for people who are suffering from fluid retention. The capsules also contain such standard herbal ingredients as antioxidant biflavonoids extracted from grape seeds, sweet clover and evening primrose oil, fish oil and lecithin.

Cellulite is not a medical term and talk of it maddens some of my colleagues. But it is a term that is readily understood, even if its alleged causes are scientific nonsense. When people eat more than they need, fat stores are laid down — and one place where fat accumulates is beneath the skin, producing the dimpling effect.

The reason why some people



Hope for the heavy: although there is no firm scientific evidence, studies on the ability of kelp to assist weight loss are encouraging

put on fat around their midriff and internally like bubble-wrap around the internal organs while others accumulate it on their arms and legs are complex and little understood. The different ways in which people carry excess weight affects their longevity — it is better to gain weight on the limbs than in or around the abdomen, and the diet of those with a girth of more than 40 inches needs urgent attention.

So far as doctors are concerned, if a patient is overweight, the presence or absence of cellulite is im-

material and what the patient needs is not a magic Cellasene capsule but a disciplined approach when confronted by butter, cream, or bacon and eggs. But do the Cellasene capsules work?

The kelp is rich in iodine and may stimulate the thyroid in those who have underactive thyroid glands. Its advocates claim that it increases the rate of metabolism in many people, too. They also claim that ginkgo biloba stimulates fat metabolism and that it, as well as sweet clover, is a

mild diuretic, thereby reducing oedema.

As is so often the case with complementary medicine, there are as yet no fully scientific clinical trials. Without these, the value of this herbal mixture cannot be assessed. It is, however, interesting that as long ago as 1976 an uncontrolled trial in Italy showed that there was appreciable weight reduction in patients taking kelp. More recently there has been a small, uncontrolled trial at the University of Pavia, also in Italy, which studied the figures of 25

healthy female patients with a mean age of 38.

The patients continued eating normally with, so far as is possible, an exactly similar diet and with physical activity rates that had been kept constant. After eight weeks the women lost, on average, 5 per cent of the girth of their thighs, 5 per cent of their hip measurements but 30 per cent of their subcutaneous fat. The manufacturers claim that blood flow to the skin increased by 45 per cent, which should also improve the skin's appearance.

In aid of prostate disease

THE CITY OF LONDON usually empties at night, but this evening not all the financial entrepreneurs whose jobs are beyond the comprehension of those outside their world will be rushing home to Guildford or Colchester. There is a waiting list for a dinner in aid of prostate research at the Gibson Hall in Threadneedle Street this evening, organised by the medical charity Remedi. So great has been the demand for places that this may well become an annual event. Its success has proved that the days when prostate cancer, and the much more common problem of the benign enlargement of the prostate, could be described as the "silent disease" have passed.

Until recently, 70 per cent of men diagnosed as suffering from the disease had already had it so long that the cancer had spread beyond the gland, and the prospects of long-term survival were very poor. The diners in Threadneedle Street have much to be grateful for, as in the past year several studies have confirmed the value of testing for prostate cancer by carrying out a simple blood test, the PSA (prostatic specific antigen), followed, if necessary, by ultrasound and other tests.

For the first time in America, where 70 per cent of men are now aware of their PSA, figures show that the death rate from prostate cancer has fallen by 6.9 per cent. In Britain, by contrast, few men are aware that once they are over 40 or 50, if there is a family history of prostate disease, an annual PSA is an important check. The death rate from cancer of the prostate here continues to climb ominously, at the current rate of increase, the annual death rate of 10,000 will have doubled in 20 years.

MORE than 60 per cent of those in whom the tumour is diagnosed die within five years and, on average, such patients will have lost 7.2 years of their expected lifespans. The research that the City will be backing is likely to be directed towards finding even more accurate ways of detecting the cancer at a stage when treatment will be curative. Early radical surgery, or radiotherapy, will enable most of those with early tumours to have a life expectancy similar to that of their contemporaries. The PSA test is not ideal but even now gives as good a result as other screening devices, such as mammography and cervical smears, did in their early days. The problem is that the PSA increases in conditions other than cancer. Thus some men undergo uncomfortable tests that, with hindsight, prove unnecessary. If the PSA test can be made more precise so that people who have been investigated without due cause is reduced, any opposition to this screening will be obviated. Prostatic research also studies problems caused by benign enlargement of the prostate, which affects all men if they live long enough. In the past few years, advances in treatment enable surgery to be safely postponed in many cases. Tablets are becoming the first choice of treatment.

I did think was right keep r clothes on

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Plant vaccine sought for hepatitis B

ALTHOUGH hepatitis B is less common in the United Kingdom than in many other parts of the world, there are still 50,000 carriers of the disease in this country. Throughout the world there are 350 million chronic carriers - all of whom are infectious, even if they have no symptoms. And many are unaware that they have had the viral infection.

Hepatitis B is a hundred times more infectious than HIV and, worldwide, the largest single cause of malignancy. Its complications are the ninth most common cause of death. Chronic carriers can develop cirrhosis and cancer of the liver.

In many countries vaccination against the disease is routine. In areas where there is reluctance to instigate a vaccination campaign, it may be related to parents' unwillingness to subject their children to yet more injections. This week it was announced that a programme has been launched that would carry out research into an edible plant vaccine for hepatitis B. Work will start in Cambridge, where a team will work alongside American researchers from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York State.

Mice used in the first experiments responded well. Mice and men are very different, but there is every reason to suppose that in respect of the hepatitis B vaccination, they will behave in a similar way. Clinical trials are due to start some time next year.



Children need discipline and affection

Love conquers all

DISCUSSION about being a good parent inevitably leads to the issue of discipline. Research has shown that, in general, both too much or too little is detrimental. The overdisciplined child is at an even greater disadvantage than one raised too leniently.

Strictness and leniency are of lesser importance than the quality of the parents' love, so an affectionately loving parent who is too severe or too liberal is unlikely to do as much damage as a smothering or indifferent parent. Children need guidelines. They need to know when their behaviour is becoming unacceptable and they should be warned of this before confrontation has been reached.

They need to rely on their parents and so have to feel that the latter are stronger and more surefooted in their passage through life than they are. On the other hand, parents can frustrate a child appallingly if the child is forever curtailed and not allowed to use his or her enterprise.

A golden rule is to try to avoid trouble by distracting the child and by finding outlets, so that any anger and resentment he or she feels can be displaced. A child may feel like hitting a younger sibling, but may be prepared to forgo the pleasure for a game of rough and tumble with Dad.

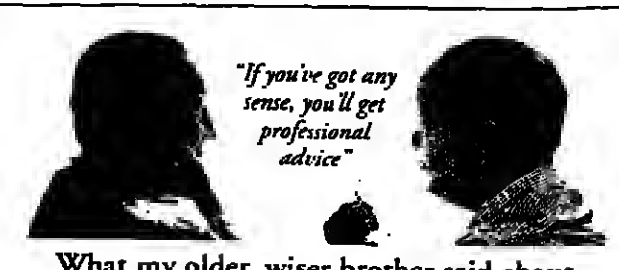
Black tea as high in antioxidants as green

A GROUP of food scientists met recently in Washington DC to discuss tea. The most important message that came from the gathering was that the well-known health advantages of drinking green tea also apply to black tea.

When I am offered a cup of tea in the office, in a patient's house or on returning home after an exhausting evening, it is going to be the black variety rather than the green. Both teas are derived from the same plant but have slightly different chemical compositions.

Despite these differences, research has shown that black tea has comparable antioxidant activity when measured against the more exotic green. The advantages of these antioxidants, which are flavonoids and polyphenols, are similar to those derived from fruit and vegetables. Research from London and from Boston in the US showed that these tea-borne antioxidants were in many cases more effective than those in vegetables.

Taking milk in tea does not dilute the medical power of the antioxidants, which are released from the tea leaves within five minutes of brewing. Antioxidants are useful in combating heart disease and malignant diseases.



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A THIRD of men over 58 suffer with this problem, he said. So no wonder the media are full of it. However, he went on, you would be wise to seek professional advice from qualified people who specialise in treating this embarrassing condition successfully.

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'I didn't think it was right to keep my clothes on'

Nicole Kidman on nudity, children, short men and being pursued. Interview by Christa D'Souza of Vogue

During the sell-out run of The Blue Room, a lot of people in London liked to think that they could call themselves New Best Friend to her star, Nicole Kidman. But how many can say they have been with her to the lavatory? For that is exactly what Nicole so graciously invited me to do.

At Kidman's suggestion, we are sitting upstairs at The Union, a members-only club in Soho. It is hard not to drink in every detail. I felt the same way when I first caught a glimpse of her at the first-night party for The Blue Room. Sheathed in a long, black, backless dress, her half-straightened curls cascaded behind her ears and cascading over her alabaster shoulders.

She looks very different today, although no less extraordinary. Her tall, slim body is sheathed in a long, woolen tunic by Narciso Rodriguez and an ankle-length tweed skirt, the dernier cri in fashion but a hard look for anyone other than a model. Her strawberry blonde hair is pinned into an undy chignon, her feet encased in a pair of brown brogues. Her mascara has smudged slightly on one side.

"It was so embarrassing at first," she says. "But Iain [Glen, her co-star] and I had made a deal. He thought his character should be naked and I didn't think it was right that I kept my clothes on — although we didn't take them off until two days before the previews. Of course, in character I'm not even aware of it."

Someone had half-jokingly told me that I would be able to tell that 31-year-old Kidman was a Scientistologist by her eyes — a slight glassiness would give it all away. But I see nothing of the kind: her eyes are obviously made up for my benefit, and just a touch bloodshot. This may be due to the steroids she was given to counteract the effect of antibiotics, but it might also be because she had a little cry last night. More than 60 photographers converged on the doorstep of the Cruises' rented house overlooking Regent's Park. Tom had chased some muggers who had stolen a neighbour's

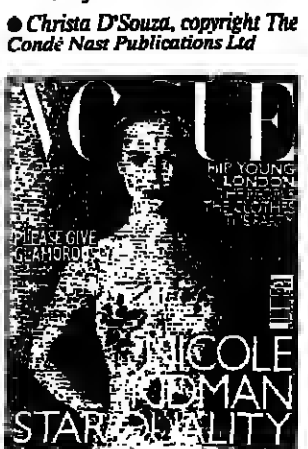


Nicole Kidman: disciplined enough not to be overwhelmed by waves of self-doubt and insecurity

Janelle, a nurse educator and staunch feminist, was fiercely committed to the cause and, to Nicole's embarrassment, was forever questioning her daughters' teachers on their methods of teaching. Kidman was a slightly eccentric child who fantasised about playing the wicked witch, as opposed to Dorothy, and who describes herself as having felt on the outside of the group. Nicknamed "Storky" because of her height, she recalls dreading the game of spin the bottle because all the boys thought she was too tall to kiss — "I've always had a thing for short men," she slyly confesses. That said, by the time she was 14, she had come to the at-

temptation of the director Jane Campion (who later cast her in Portrait of a Lady) and by 18, after her appearance in a hit TV mini-series called Vietnam, was a kind of teen idol, forever being photographed with the hunkiest Australian soap star of the day. Everything changed, however, when Tom Cruise saw her in Philip Noyce's masterpiece Dead Calm. Looking for a leading lady for Days of Thunder, he had Nicole flown over immediately. By 1990 he had announced a separation from his first wife, Mimi Rogers. And less than a year later, when Nicole was 23, the pair wed in Colorado, including in their vows the promise never to spend longer than two weeks apart from each other.

Maddeningly, they claim still to fancy each other and are devoted to their two adopted children, Isabella, five, and Connor, three. In fact, she wakes the children on returning from the theatre so that the four of them can curl up in bed with ice-cream, biscuits and cereal ("I love eating cereal at night"). Perhaps the apparent perfection of such images is behind the spurious rumours about their fertility and sexuality which prompted the recent libel settlement. Kidman reveals that her husband would like to have four children, and that she hopes to be pregnant one day. One senses that she would like to find some genuine friends in London with whom she can discuss any-



This is an edited extract from an article in the December issue of British Vogue, on sale tomorrow



Jackpot the Sun Pavilion, Harrogate, is a beneficiary

Who's winning the lottery?

Love it or loathe it, the National Lottery is slowly transforming the landscape. Four years old next week, it has proved a fearsome money-making machine, creating 686 new millionaires and paying out more than £9 billion in prizes. Ticket sales are fast approaching £20 billion. Yet money raised for good causes is taking painfully long to trickle out, and not everyone is happy with the end result. About £6 billion has been paid to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF), from which the money flows to sport, the arts, charities, the national heritage and the Millennium Commission. With interest, the pot has swelled to £6.5 billion, only £2.9 billion of which has been paid out. The balance remains sitting on deposit — scandalously, in the eyes of some. How the money is spent is the theme of the new £12 million advertising campaign from Camelot, the lottery operator, which debuts on television tonight. The idea is to show that there are winners both in prizes and through the good causes.

The Arts Council of England has allocated £910 million to buildings, musical instruments, and other capital projects. Of this, £507 million has been drawn. Waverley, in Surrey, for example, boasts a new arts centre. The English Sports Council has awarded £766 million to 2,730 capital applications — boats, buildings and land — of which £355 million has been paid out. Lottery pounds are being reincarnated as swimming pools, cricket pavilions and clubhouses. The National Lottery Charities Board (NLCB) was always going to prove a sitting target. Long delays in processing applications have led to accusations of inefficiency. Much has been made of awards to homosexuals and prostitutes. On paper, however, the NLCB record compares favourably. Of £930 million committed to applicants, £459 million has been handed over.

There is a fear of Britain littered with follies

A sixth good cause, the New Opportunities Fund, will channel money to health, education and environmental projects. The first awards, some for cancer treatment, are due next spring. The new mood is spreading to all the funding bodies, with the emphasis shifting towards people and activities, rather than buildings. There is to be a greater focus on reducing social deprivation and the raising of "matching" funds will become less onerous. Judging whether the cash is being spent wisely will become easier with time — but the fear remains that Britain might be littered with expensive follies: theatres and art centres without the funds to keep them running.

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Taming an unruly Celtic fringe

The new Unionism needs work, says Magnus Linklater

Enoch Powell's famous dictum — "power devolved is power retained" — may need rewriting. For Downing Street these days, power devolved must seem a bit like mercury. Once it escapes, getting it back into the tube is the devil's own business. In Wales, in Scotland, even in London, the process of handing it over, while retaining control at the centre, is becoming a nightmare: some ministers seem almost to wish they could reverse the process. However, as the late Robert Maxwell was fond of saying, "You can only lose your virginity once."

It has taken the resignation of Ron Davies to confirm an uncomfortable truth for this Government — that to win popular support in the soon-to-be-devolved areas of the United Kingdom, it pays to distance yourself from the centre. The very qualities that make Downing Street profoundly uneasy about Rhodri Morgan, who is trying to become leader of the Welsh Labour Party, are those that bolster his standing in Wales. His opinions are as unruly as his hairstyle; he bears distinct traces of old Labour: he professes little respect for spin-doctors; and he has been rude about Peter Mandelson. Attempts to stitch together a voting system that would select Downing Street's preferred candidate, Alun Michael, have foundered on Mr Morgan's intransigence. His own beguiling proposal is known as democracy, in the form of one man one vote. This he would probably win.

Blair's foes are strong where it hurts him most — at home

Yet everything Mr Morgan stands for flies in the face of two aims that Tony Blair holds dear: proclaiming the virtues of the Union and holding the Labour Party together. The idea of a modernised Union has become a crucial issue for the Prime Minister, who is not, by instinct, a devolutionist. He needs to rely on those who are delivering policy in Scotland, Wales, and indeed in London, because he is only too aware of the risks to a united Britain if matters get out of hand.

It is not just that the independence parties in Scotland and Wales might take over. The strains within Labour might become intolerable if policy devolved too far from the centre. Everything that Mr Blair has fought for in building a disciplined and, in his view, electable, organisation would begin to founder if the old party factions on the Left were allowed to creep back again. Hence the determination that Ken Livingstone's attempt to become mayor of London must be stopped; the desperate search for an election system that will hand the Welsh job to Mr Michael; and the rigorous selection process that eliminated Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West, from the list of candidates for a Scottish parliament.

Maddeningly for Mr Blair, the renegade candidates command support where it mat-

ters — at home. The more No 10 briefs against them, the more popular they grow. Mr Canavan, who has announced his intention to mount an independent election campaign, will pick up votes simply because people did not like the rigorous new Labour process which ensured that he was excluded. Mr Morgan is benefiting from behind-the-scenes manipulation of the Welsh selection process. And Mr Livingstone makes capital out of the new rules proposed to make his candidacy more difficult to mount.

Part of this distaste for central control stems from the popularity of devolution. It has caught on to an extent that the Government may not have envisaged, and votes are won by promoting it in its most vigorous form rather than by explaining the more subtle merits of maintaining Westminster's status. Hence the popularity of the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru which propose the most extreme form of decentralisation — independence. To combat them Labour has to set out a more complex, even daring, strategy.

When Mr Blair speaks at Strathclyde University tomorrow, he will develop ideas explored by Gordon Brown and one of his advisers, the Paisley MP Douglas Alexander.

Labour intends to challenge the narrow vision offered by the nationalists and point out the inadequacies of their economic policies. It will propose a modernised Union that includes a wide diversity of cultures, and it will emphasise the solidarity that being British offers to the citizens of every part of the UK, particularly in the uncertain economic climate that lies ahead. It will promote the benefits of maintaining close links with London, while pointing out that in its modern form the Union will be a multi-layered institution giving freedom to the individual cultures within it. It will also try to rebuild faith in politics itself, proposing the revolutionary notion that governments can be a force for good.

This is risky territory on which to campaign. Promoting the Union is not a vote-winning concept in Wales or Scotland at present. It will only work if it is put across with conviction, and portrayed as part of an evolving Britain, rather than a way of maintaining the status quo. But it requires one other change to succeed, and that must come from the Government itself. It must demonstrate a far greater degree of confidence in the reality of devolution than it has yet shown. The instinct to control from the centre will have to be relaxed. The Downing Street machine will need to concede that it does not have the final say over every last policy decision. Above all, it will have to respect the uncomfortable fact that handing over power means handing over the right to do things differently.



Why Gordon's smiling

The Chancellor will be saved by the bold Lady of Threadneedle Street

Whenever I meet a politician and the conversation begins with the same question, "Why am I so confident that there will be no serious recession next year?" After all, business sentiment is grimmer today than it was in the darkest days of the 1990-92 recession. By simply projecting this experience into the future, why shouldn't we conclude that Britain is heading for a disaster comparable to 1974, 1980 or 1991 — when manufacturing output fell by 5 per cent or more, gross domestic product shrank by more than 2 per cent and unemployment doubled?

One answer is simply to point out that the desperation expressed in these surveys seems so exaggerated that it is inherently suspicious. Profits may be down and things may be quiet in the high streets, but surely things are not as bad as they were in 1991 or 1980? They are not.

Perhaps the British businessmen who were questioned by the Confederation of British Industry in the days immediately after a 20 per cent drop in the stock market, were simply whingeing, as is their wont. This time their melancholy may have been exaggerated by the sudden loss of personal wealth on stock option schemes. But another, more sophisticated, answer to the prospect of doom was given yesterday by Mervyn King, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. Mr King pointed out that careful economic analysis does not show any simple correlation between business sentiment and the economic outlook.

There is, however, a more substantial reason for confidence about the economy which does not depend on the vagaries of economic forecasting or human nature. The most fundamental and reliable reason why a recession is extremely unlikely next year, at least in Britain or the United States, is because our Governments and central banks are willing and able to ensure that a recession does not take place.

At first sight, to rely on the omnipotence of governments and central bankers may seem even more naive than relying on the omniscience of forecasters and stock market investors. Governments and central banks failed to prevent the global recessions of 1974-75, 1980-82

and 1991-92. So why should they be any more successful now?

The simple answer is low inflation. Whenever prices are stable, governments and central banks can readily prevent recessions. They can print money, slash interest rates, cut taxes and raise public spending. And if there is enough money in circulation, consumption, employment and investment will inevitably follow.

The fact that recessions can be prevented does not mean that governments can do it all. They cannot spend their way to unlimited rates of long-term economic growth or eradicate all unemployment. There is at any given time a "natural" rate of unemployment. It is dictated by the

some external constraint. Usually the constraint is a fear of provoking inflation, but it can also be a threat of national bankruptcy or a currency peg such as the gold standard of the 1930s or the ERM straitjacket donned by John Major in 1990-92. Thirdly, the policymakers may be willing and able to react but, having miscalculated the pervasiveness of the economic weakness, they may do too little and too late.

In Britain's present circumstances, only the third of these problems is relevant. Nobody — at least outside the Bundesbank and European Central Bank — any longer disputes the efficacy of monetary and fiscal policy for managing demand. And British policy is not under any external constraint. We do not operate a gold standard or belong to any currency zone and Britain's public finances are probably the strongest among the G7 countries, giving the Government the freedom to

plenty to maintain public spending, and allowing the Bank of England to cut interest rates aggressively without worrying about the impact of low interest rates on holders of sterling or on future customers for British government bonds.

The key question that remains, therefore, is whether the Bank will act vigorously enough to maintain economic growth. Here, finally, I come to the really good news. Whether by luck or by judgment, Britain has come up with a system of monetary management that seems as likely as any in the world to produce the aggressive and timely changes in monetary policy that are needed to prevent recession. In giving the Bank of England its 2.5 per cent inflation target, Gordon Brown insisted, uniquely among the G7 Finance Ministers, that inflation must be prevented from falling significantly below the target, as well as rising above it. At the same time, this instruction seemed, at least to me, an inadequate assurance against the natural cau-

son of central bankers, their preference for deflation and their lust for power. Natural distrust of the arrogance of independent central bankers was one reason why I, for one, strongly disagreed with the decision to give independence to the Bank.

But in setting the Bank free last year, Mr Brown did better than merely laying down a symmetrical inflation target. He also appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee some serious academic economists who were disinclined to conform to the stereotype of deflationary European central bankers.

They wanted to prove the effectiveness of a transparent and strictly symmetrical approach to monetary demand management, which acknowledged that it is as important to prevent a deflationary recession as to curb inflation.

The upshot was evident in yesterday's quarterly inflation report: "The inflation target is symmetric. The Monetary Policy Committee act just as determinedly in response to prospective deviations of inflation below target as to those above."

Translated into proper English, this means that the MPC will go on cutting interest rates until it is confident that recession is no longer a serious threat. If hard evidence emerges that the grim business and consumer surveys are turning out to be right, the MPC should be willing to act very aggressively indeed, perhaps cutting interest rates by a full point at a time. But once the economy recovers, or if the business surveys turn out to be wrong, the Bank should feel no embarrassment about changing direction and beginning to raise interest rates. The most important virtues in central banking are not conservatism and probity but boldness, flexibility and a willingness to admit mistakes.

If the newly independent Bank of England turns out to possess these virtues, then the critics of central bank independence (myself included) should be more than happy to admit our mistake. Britain's whingeing industrialists should be happy to admit that they were wrong. And who knows, but Britain's new monetary arrangements could even become a model for the rest of Europe and the world.

But if the task is merely to prevent the economy moving too far away from its natural level of unemployment, that's to say preventing a recession, then that is entirely within the power of the Government and the central bank.

This is one point on which both Keynesian and monetarist economists can readily agree, as shown by the latest monthly review from Tim Congdon, one of Britain's leading monetarist economists, who pointed out that the only possible reason for a recession in Britain next year would be bank of England incompetence.

Why, then, do recessions happen at all? There are three inter-related answers. First, politicians and central bankers may simply be unaware of their ability to sustain economic growth by spending and printing money. That was essentially the problem during the 1930s and in many of the earlier great depressions. Secondly, governments and central banks may be prevented from pursuing expansionary policies by

some external constraint. Usually the constraint is a fear of provoking inflation, but it can also be a threat of national bankruptcy or a currency peg such as the gold standard of the 1930s or the ERM straitjacket donned by John Major in 1990-92. Thirdly, the policymakers may be willing and able to react but, having miscalculated the pervasiveness of the economic weakness, they may do too little and too late.

In Britain's present circumstances, only the third of these problems is relevant. Nobody — at least outside the Bundesbank and European Central Bank — any longer disputes the efficacy of monetary and fiscal policy for managing demand. And British policy is not under any external constraint. We do not operate a gold standard or belong to any currency zone and Britain's public finances are probably the strongest among the G7 countries, giving the Government the freedom to

plenty to maintain public spending, and allowing the Bank of England to cut interest rates aggressively without worrying about the impact of low interest rates on holders of sterling or on future customers for British government bonds.

The key question that remains, therefore, is whether the Bank will act vigorously enough to maintain economic growth. Here, finally, I come to the really good news. Whether by luck or by judgment, Britain has come up with a system of monetary management that seems as likely as any in the world to produce the aggressive and timely changes in monetary policy that are needed to prevent recession. In giving the Bank of England its 2.5 per cent inflation target, Gordon Brown insisted, uniquely among the G7 Finance Ministers, that inflation must be prevented from falling significantly below the target, as well as rising above it. At the same time, this instruction seemed, at least to me, an inadequate assurance against the natural cau-

son of central bankers, their preference for deflation and their lust for power. Natural distrust of the arrogance of independent central bankers was one reason why I, for one, strongly disagreed with the decision to give independence to the Bank.

But in setting the Bank free last year, Mr Brown did better than merely laying down a symmetrical inflation target. He also appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee some serious academic economists who were disinclined to conform to the stereotype of deflationary European central bankers.

They wanted to prove the effectiveness of a transparent and strictly symmetrical approach to monetary demand management, which acknowledged that it is as important to prevent a deflationary recession as to curb inflation.

Anatole Kaletsky

No more cat and mouse

Clinton is serious this time, says Rosemary Righter

Is the abrupt departure yesterday of United Nations arms inspectors and relief staff from Baghdad a watershed? Until now, this slow-moving crisis has appeared wearisomely familiar. Confronted with the most disturbing proof yet of Iraq's continuing development of weapons of mass destruction, President Saddam Hussein has again turned on his tormentors. He has put UNSCOM, the UN team charged with detecting and destroying his outlawed chemical, biological and nuclear capability, totally out of action. Yet again, the Pentagon is rushing a task force to the Gulf, while American diplomats fan out to build international support for air strikes on Iraq.

Yet again Russia, now led by Saddam's old friend Yevgeny Primakov, balks. Other voices object that, quite apart from the risks to Iraqi civilians, bombing could result in a more, not less, dangerous Iraq because it would close down UNSCOM for good. "Diplomacy backed by force", the clichéd policy Kofi Annan gave the world last February, has set out its stall of military rhetoric.

But this time it is different. The tough talk neither does, nor should, preclude diplomatic compromise. Saddam doubts that. Four times in the past year he has tested international waters and found them welcoming; and since Mr Annan's February deal, he has been convinced that the UN was close to giving up. In addition, Saddam, who watches CNN obsessively, took the Lewinsky affair to mean that whatever he now did, another climbdown by President Clinton was a bankable certainty.

This crisis, brewing since May, is unquestionably of Iraqi manufacture. Just as Saddam advertised his intentions to an inattentive world in the months before he invaded Kuwait, so Iraq has been openly preparing since the spring for a showdown with the UN this autumn. Saddam has deliberately sold far less oil than the UN's oil-for-food deal allows, the better to use the needless suffering of Iraqis to turn world opinion against both sanctions and airstrikes. As long ago as last May, Iraq notified the UN Secretary-General that if sanctions did not end in October, it would adopt an "alternative strategy" with "dire consequences". In June its UN Ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, repeated that there would then be "a crisis. And it will be the final crisis".

Could it be? This time, the United States is ready to take up Iraq's challenge. The mood has hardened for several reasons. The first was the corroboration of American findings that Iraq has succeeded in loading warheads with the deadly VX nerve gas. French and Swiss laboratories have confirmed the American tests. The second reason is that Iraq's persistent and increasingly effective sabotage of UNSCOM for a full three months has undercut the argument that military action would reap little benefit. As Mr Clinton said yesterday, "they might as well be in Baghdad as in Baghdad".

The third factor is that Saddam — along with many Republican pundits — misread the political runes in America. He has thus picked his latest fight with a President re-energised, rather than terminally lamed, by the midterm elections. After opting round Iraq all year, the White House has rethought its entire Iraq strategy. Clinton has concluded that Iraq, having forced the most serious confrontation since the Gulf War ceasefire, must be seen to lose, and lose decisively. Instead of pin-prick "demonstration" strikes, the new battle plan envisages an initial, intensive phase of bombing, targeting not just suspect installations but Saddam's military power base. That would be followed by indefinite, muscular, air policing. And this time force is likely to be used without attempting further diplomatic overtures to Baghdad.

America is playing hardball at the right moment. The Security Council is, relatively, united. UNSCOM's reports have convinced them that Iraq has sufficient chemical and biological stockpiles, and production capacity, to rebuild its arsenals within months; and that it will never meet its obligations of disclosure. There is a much wider understanding than in Iraq, the UN's credibility is on the line. The test is as grave as that faced by the League of Nations in Abyssinia in 1935 — a test that the league, fatally, failed.

The US has done some skilful diplomatic footwork. Mr Clinton's determination during the Wye negotiations convinced Arab Governments that America is firmly re-engaged as a force in the Middle East. France, which Washington has taken care to consult as closely as Britain, is ready to back a sustained military strategy that it was an armed game of bluff. The same goes for Arab leaders. Now, as in 1990, what they most fear is a repeat of in-and-out airstrikes. They will only back military action that seriously reduces the threat from their dangerous neighbour. Above all, they see no realistic alternative to the decisive use of force.

Saddam shows no sign of backing down. Cat and mouse is the game he knows. But the trap is set to spring on the mouse. At long last. And because this is a high-risk strategy, its teeth had better be made of strong steel.

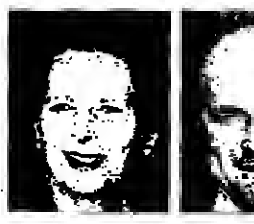
Table talk

CLIVE ANDERSON has returned his pay cheque after making an after dinner speech for which he charged £11,000 in return for 12 minutes of limp jokes. His performance, which failed to produce the customary post-prandial guffaws over house brands and After Eights, ended with his audience fingering its clip-on bowties with awkward embarrassment. Guests complained that the television light entertainer's jokes were about computer scientists. Sadly, Anderson (right) was apparently unaware that his audience did not consist of wannabe Bill Gates types, but of photocopier engineers. They heard him in silent bafflement.

The bash was one of those gruesome corporate affairs at the Cheltenham Park Hotel. After receiving a complaint from Sharp, Anderson has returned part of his fee. Typically, an after dinner speaker (bores in the main) bang on for a good half hour. Baroness Thatcher (left) who competes with Derek Nimmo on the circuit, hammers away for rather longer, and still earns more than £1,000 a minute.

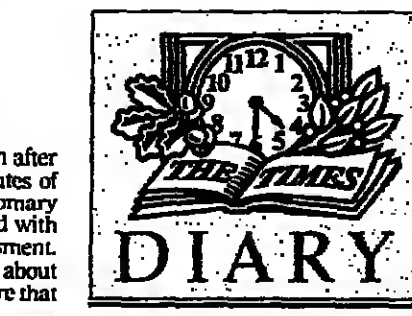
"The clients said that they were disappointed and they would have liked him to have spoken for longer," admits the go-between responsible for hiring Anderson. "They hoped he might speak for 40 minutes, but he was considerably shorter than that."

The agent who toils for Anderson, and secures more than



£20,000 an episode for his TV chat show, denied the incident initially. Later she came clean. "We settled amicably. You don't want to get paid for work people didn't enjoy."

Anderson is baffled. "This is the first time I've made a speech which has not gone down well," he tells me. "I normally get slapped on the back. It was short but Sharp. There is a showbiz adage: leave them wanting more." Well, he is a barrister; what can one expect?



does not want William Hague's job? Peter Brookes, my brilliant colleague and fellow QPR fan, was called by the ex-MP asking to buy his cartoon. This depicted Portillo with a dagger to stab Hague.

Model men? THAT inspiration to Valley girls, Catherine Zeta Jones (right), looks forward to attracting a better class of trouser. "The good thing about LA is that it's so cosmopolitan. By the time I get some time off, there will be a whole new genre of men to choose from." As her previous boyfriends in Britain were John Leslie, the erstwhile Blue Peter presenter, and an Angus MacFadyen, an actor from Soldier, Soldier, one sympathises.

being described as the Mick Jagger of literature: "I'm never going to be happy about that until I see Mick Jagger described as the Manin Amis of rock."

Offside FRANCE in summer returned the other night as footballers and writers engaged in a penalty shootout at Café Kick. Subbuteo style. They gathered to toast the launch of Mark Palmer's jolly account of the World Cup, *Lost In France*.

One key figure strangely absent was David Davies, the FA spinner. Earlier, he telephoned the publishers for a copy of the book and said cheerily that he would be along later. No sign. Perhaps this



might be related to the natty former BBC man being described in the book as "looking like a deck hand on the Queen Mary".

THE Prince of Wales has upset Anglicans in the Balkans (a gloomy bunch) after he failed to drop by. Congregants gathered at the Church of Resurrection, Bucharest, hoping to see the future head of the Church of England. Although he visited a Lutheran cathedral and a Greek Orthodox church, he never made it. The church still uses a Communion plate and chalice donated by Romania's Queen Marie, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Steve Hughes, the chaplain, has told friends he was upset by "the snub". Aurel Iovitu, a warden, says: "He could have found two minutes. We are C of E after all!" The poor chap was probably suffering indigestion from dumplings.

Mandy Friday CRISTINA O'DONE has been fantasising about Peter Mandelson. Ms Odone (right) the immaculate deputy editor of the *New Statesman*, writes about her ideal desert island experience in the *Erotic Review*, nominating Mandy as her lushes Man Friday.

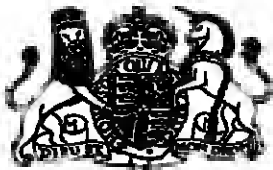
The piece commissioned before his "outing" — sensuously



heralds his arrival on her patch of sand: "A creature approaches the spot where I lie exhausted and trembling... Peter Mandelson," she pants, complaining that Mandy, in a leopard-skin loin-cloth, "looks bored" as she does the Dance of the Seven Veils. So she consults *Men are from Mars. Women are from Venus*, "trying to find clues as to my partner's lack of interest", until, as the sun sets, and after a "timid caress" (hers), Mandy says: "I don't like this" and asks: "Perhaps we could find a third way?"

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأصل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11: The Queen was joined at the British Embassy in Paris this morning by the Secretary of State for Defence (the Rt Hon George Robertson MP). Her Majesty drove to the Arc de Triomphe and was received by the President of the French Republic and Ministers from the French Government.

The Queen and The President laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and met flag bearers and veterans.

Her Majesty and President Chirac afterwards laid wreaths at the statue of Clemenceau and met representatives of the Clemenceau family, the Clemenceau Association and the Veterans' Association.

The Queen was entertained to lunch this afternoon at the Elysée Palace by the President of the French Republic.

Her Majesty and The President later visited Avenue Winston Churchill to participate in the unveiling of a statue of Sir Winston Churchill and were received by the Mayor of Paris.

The Queen afterwards left Villa-coubay Airport for Belgium and was received on arrival at Wevelgem Airport by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium (His Excellency Mr David Colvin), The King and Queen of the Belgians, The President of the Republic of Ireland and the Mayor of Wevelgem.

The Queen, The King and Queen of the Belgians and The President of the Republic of Ireland later visited Mesein (Messines), were received by the Governor of West Flanders and the Mayor of Mesein and attended a Lunch given by the President of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce (Mr Dan Gillerman) and the President of the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (Mr Dan Propper). His Royal Highness later visited the Tel Aviv Museum, before attending a Service of Remembrance.

Her Majesty and His Majesty laid wreaths and met First World War veterans from the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Queen and The King and Queen of the Belgians visited Cloth Hall, Leper (Ypres). Her Majesty viewed the "In Flanders Fields" Exhibition and met young people associated with it and subsequently met First World War veterans.

The Queen this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from Belgium.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11: The Duke of York this morning departed Heathrow Airport, London, for New Zealand.

Birthdays today

Dame Peggy Ferner, former MP, 76; Lord Goff of Chieveley, FBA, 72; Dr William Hayes, President, St John's College, Oxford, 68; Mr J.A.S. Ingamells, former director, the Wallace Collection, 64; Mr M.A. Lang, former Headmaster, Durham School, 59; Sir Peter Lloyd, MP, 61; Professor Christina Lyon, Professor of Law, Liverpool University, 46; Miss Jennifer Page, chief executive, New Millennium Experience, 54; Professor Gilbert Smith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, 54; Sir William Sutherland, former Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders, 65; Professor John Tarrant, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Huddersfield University, 57; Frebendary Chad Varah, founder, The Samaritans, 87.

Service dinner

Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association
Rear-Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest presided at the Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association dinner held last night at the Army and Navy Club to mark the Falklands Campaign and the 35th anniversary of the Battle of Taranto. Rear-Admiral Terry Loughran, Lieutenant-Commander John Neale, Sir Patrick Duffy, Sir Ralph Robins and Sir Michael Cobham were the principal guests.

Dinners

The Association of Corporate Treasurers
The President of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, Mr Paul Spencer, UK Chief Executive, Royal & Sun Alliance, was host at the Association's Annual Dinner held last night at the Grosvenor Hotel, London. Lord Simon of Highbury, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, Department of Trade and Industry, was Guest Speaker. Mr David Cromwell, Chairman of the Association and Group Treasurer of The Post Office, also spoke. Marylebone Cricket Club Mr Tony Lewis, President of MCC, was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held in the Committee Dining Room at Lord's last night. Mr Derek Randall proposed the toast to "Cricket", and the President responded.

Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent
General Sir Charles Guthrie was guest of honour at a dinner of the Society held on November 11 at Bookham, Mr Rupert Hambro presided.

National Liberal Club
Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual dinner of the National Liberal Club held last night at Whitehall Place. The Bishop of Chichester, presiding, spoke. Mrs David Hunter, club chairman, also spoke. Lord Wigoder, QC, and Lady Wigoder and the Hon Maurice Robson were among those present.

Darham University
Mr Chelamra Anant, Indian Charge d'Affaires, delivered the annual lecture of the Friends of the Oriental Museum, Durham University. Major Roy Gazzard, chairman, presided. Sir Kenneth Callman, Vice-Chancellor of the university, attended.



Sophie Jepson of Christie's displays a fine pair of Purdey sporting guns specially built for King George V and presented to him in 1929. They are expected to make between £100,000 and £150,000 when they are auctioned on December 1

Royal Anniversary Trust

Viscount Younger of Leckie, KT, Chairman of the Royal Anniversary Trust, was host at a reception held at St James's Palace yesterday to announce the prizewinning institutions of the 1998 biennial round of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education. The twenty-one winning institutions were announced by Mr Robin Gill, Founder Trustee and Chairman of the Executive.

The 1998 prizewinners:

- Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies: Education and training for the hospitality and tourism industries
- Bournemouth and Poole College of Art & Design: Education for the film industry
- Cambridge University: Mathematics applied
- Durham University: Minimal access surgery: new techniques and treatments
- Exeter University: Children's health and exercise: research and dissemination
- Glasgow University: Computing science teaching and research
- Goldsmiths College: Real research in 'A' Level science
- Hills Road Sixth Form College: Upgrading facilities, teaching and community provision
- University of Wales, Lampeter: Accreditation and up-skilling of workers from the voluntary sector
- The London Institute: Creativity and innovation in fashion education
- Loughborough University Interna-

Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in October 1998. They are entitled to use the designation 'Chartered Chemist' and the letters CChem FRSC.

Dr Adda-Mensah, S.K. Ashby, T.G. Balson, A.O. Bawer, B.J. Brundell, G.R. Brown, T.O. Adu, A. Dabke, T.H. Evers, K. Inabito, E.J. Miller, S. Mohanram, F.C. Shears, R.H. Tompkins, R.H. West, G.C. White.

London School of Economics

The London School of Economics and Political Science announces that this year's Lakatos Award, of £10,000 for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science, is shared between:

Professor Jeffrey Bub, University of Maryland, and Professor Deborah Mayo, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

King's Hall, Taunton

The Western Division of the Woodland Corporation has appointed Mr James Macpherson as Headmaster of King's Hall, Taunton in succession to Mrs Maureen Wilson who retires in August 1999. Mr Macpherson is currently Headmaster of The Downs School, Wrexham, Bristol.

Reception

The Ambassador of the Netherlands was the host at a reception and afterwards was the guest of the Jewish Music Festival. The reception was held at King's Hall, Taunton, on Sunday 8th November.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R.J. Blake McGrath and **Miss C.E.A. Ogilvie Forbes** are announced. The engagement is announced between Myles Robert John, son of Mr Michael Blake McGrath and Mrs Edmund Chilton, and Catherine Elisabeth Ann, elder daughter of Mr Charles Ogilvie Forbes and Mrs Charles Smith.

Mr A.C.W. Dixon and **Mrs C.E. Briggs** are announced. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Dixon, of Broad-hempston, Devon, and Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs B.E.S.L. Stuart, of Ickford, Buckinghamshire.

Mr S. Geddes-Moody and **Miss S.M. Kennedy** are announced. The engagement is announced between Sean, son of Mrs Jean Geddes, of Edinburgh, and Stephanie Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs James A. Kennedy, of Killearn, Stirlingshire.

Mr J.A.C. Ogilvy-Stuart and **Miss J.M.C. Cathcart** are announced. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J.L. Ogilvy-Stuart, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Cathcart, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr S.L. Pearce and **Miss J.K. Mobsey** are announced. The engagement is announced between Saul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Arnold Pearce, of Hampstead, London, and Julia Kirsin, daughter of Mr Peter Mobsey, of Guildford, Surrey, and Mrs Russell Farley, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr N.A.T. Pollock and **Miss L.E. Sheddin** are announced. The engagement is announced between Nicholas Alexander Treherne, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Pollock, of Wormley, Surrey, and Lucy Elizabeth, daughter of Dr David Sheddin, of Chilcomb, Hampshire, and Mrs Judith Sheddin, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard Baxter, Puritan minister, Rowton, Shropshire, 1645; Amelia Ople, novelist and poet, Norwich, 1769; Bahá'í, founder of the Bahá'í faith, Tehran, 1817; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1833; Auguste Rodin, sculptor, Paris, 1840; John William Strutt, 3rd Baron Rayleigh, physicist, Nobel laureate 1904, Malden, Essex, 1832; Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, President of China 1912, Canton, 1866; Grace Kelly, Princess Grace of Monaco, actress, Philadelphia, 1929.

DEATHS: Camille the Great, King of England 1016-35 and of Denmark 1035; Stephen Gardiner, bishop and statesman, London, 1555; Sir John Hawkins, naval commander, at sea, off Puerto Rico, 1595; Thomas Fairfax, 3rd Baron Fairfax of Cameron, C-in-C of the Parliamentary army, Nun Appleton, Yorkshire, 1671; Jean-Sylvain Bailly, astronomer, 1st Mayor of Paris 1793-4, executed, Paris, 1793; Liam Hayley, poet, Felpham, 1820; Charles Kemble, actor, London, 1854; Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, near Alton, Hampshire, 1865; Percival Lowell, astronomer, Flagstaff, Arizona, 1916; Baroness Emma O'Grady, novelist, London, 1947; Rudolf Friml, composer, Hollywood, 1972.

The bodies of Captain Robert Scott, E.A. Wilson and H.R. Bowers, who had perished on their journey from the South Pole, were discovered, 1912.

The German battleship *Tirpitz* was sunk in Tromsø fiord, Norway, 1944.

A salmon was caught in the Thames, the first for more than 130 years, 1974.

Church news

Appointments: The Rev David Lill, Team Vicar, Bath, Devon-on-Avon (Bath & Wells), to be Deputy Chaplain, Bristol Priory.

The Rev Margaret Mullins, Curate, Bishopscote (Winchester), to be Team Vicar, Bioster (Oxford).

The Rev Jennifer Oakes, Assistant Curate, Fawcett, Clayton, L. Mill-wick and Weston, and Hixon with Stowe-by-Chartley (Leicestershire), to be Priest-in-Charge, Standon and Cotes Heath (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Paynter, Team Vicar, North Farnborough L (Guildford), to be Vicar, Ealing St Mary (London).

The Rev William Prescott, Assistant Curate, Horsell St Mary (Guildford), to be Incumbent, Guernsey St Saviour, and Priest-in-Charge, Guernsey St Marguerite de la Forêt (Winchester).

The Rev Richard Reeve, Curate (Associate), Acon, Acton Green (London), to be Vicar, Hayes St Edmund of Canterbury (same diocese).

Merchant Venturers of Bristol

The following have been elected officers of the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.M. Woolley; Senior Warden, Mr T.J. Hood; Junior Warden, Mr G.A. Matthews; First Assistant, Mr D.M. Parkes.

Service dinner

Rear-Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest presided at the Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association dinner held last night at the Army and Navy Club to mark the Falklands Campaign and the 35th anniversary of the Battle of Taranto. Rear-Admiral Terry Loughran, Lieutenant-Commander John Neale, Sir Patrick Duffy, Sir Ralph Robins and Sir Michael Cobham were the principal guests.

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Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend the Young Artists Britain Award Ceremony at Her Majesty's Palace at 4.30 and will host a banquet at Hampton Court Palace to mark the opening of the exhibition *Travels with the Prince* at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, president, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Council of Management Meeting followed by an Industry Committee Meeting at Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, at 11.00. Later, at Coker Hill, the Royal Logistic Corps, she will attend a dinner at the Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, at 7.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Logistic Corps, will attend a dinner at the Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, at 7.25.

The Duke of Kent, chairman, the National Electronics Council, will attend the annual meeting at 4.00; will attend the Mountainbeat Lecture at Savoy Place, London WC2, at 6.00; and will attend a gala concert at the Wigmore Hall at 7.00.

Princess Alexandra, president, will attend the Armistice Ball at the Richmond Hotel and Carter House, Richmond, Surrey, at 7.30.

Luncheons

Royal Society of St George: Sir Colin Cole was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Council of the Royal Society of St George at Rules restaurant, Covent Garden, to mark his retirement as president.

Royal Institute of International Affairs: The Royal Institute of International Affairs launched the British-Angola Forum at a luncheon held yesterday in the Locarno Rooms at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Mr Tony Lloyd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the special guest. The Ambassador of Angola, Lord Decles, Dame Margaret Anstee and HM Ambassador to Angola were among those present.

New ambassador

Mr Peter Ford to be Ambassador to Bahrain from April 1999 in succession to Mr Ian Levy who is retiring to a new appointment.

Latest wills

• Sir Ronald Miller, playwright, screenwriter and political writer, of London W8, left estate valued at £1,511,981 net. He left £10,000 to the RNVR and to Wave Heritage Trust; £5,000 to Rugby Cricket Club.

Lady Penant, of Bangor, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,483,708 net.

Sir John Ellis, consulting physician since 1981, The London Hospital, of Woodford Green, Essex, left estate valued at £439,426 net.

The Hon Eileen Maud Douglas, Pennant, of Warminster, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,109,650 net.

She left £2,000 to Dr Barnardos and Help the Aged; £1,000 to both the District Council's Aid Association and each of her trustees who prove her will.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD5: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
GREFFITHS - On 27th October 1998, at the Portland Hospital, Devon, a daughter, Isabella, to Mrs and Mr David Greffiths and Mrs Catherine Greffiths. A sister for Edward.

ALLEN - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, London, to Tania Stark and Michael Allen, a lovely daughter, Noor Hinko Tansva.

BRANNEY - On November 8th 1998, at Anaia (Mrs Jane Parratt) and David, a son, Archie Robert Alfred.

BRAMMER - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Melanie and Marzita, a daughter, Caroline, a sister for Oliver.

BRUCE - On November 8th 1998 at the Portland Hospital, to Stephanie (née Druce) and Kevin, a son, Conrad Anthony, a brother for Liam.

CHOLMONDELEY - On November 8th 1998 to Sally (née Brown) and David, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for James.

CROWDER - On 8th November 1998, at the Portland Hospital, to Beverly Hills, to Kelly (née Crowder) and David, a daughter, Zoia, a sister for John.

DEVANEY - On November 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Jenny and Stephen, a son, Christopher James, a brother for Isabelle and Matthew.

EVANS - On 8th November 1998, to Caroline (née Lewis) and David, a daughter, Lucy Catherine, a sister for Edward.

FOSTER - On 25th October in London to Caroline (née Britton) and Stephen, a daughter, Charlotte Anna, a sister for Alice.

DEATHS
COOPER - Hugh Anthony of Chichester, West Sussex, on November 11th 1998, aged 79, after a long illness. He was the husband of the late Mrs Joan Cooper. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday, November 18th at St. Peter's Church, Chichester. Burial at 1.30 pm at the same church. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Chichester, or to the British Red Cross Society, 155 London Road, SE17 1JL, would be gratefully received.

HEWLETT - On November 8th in Nailfield Hospital, Aldershot, Hampshire, aged 87 years. Devoted wife of the late Mrs Joan Hewlett. Much loved by her children, Carol, Jonathan, Janet, Julie and Charlene. Loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral and cremation service at the Parish Church, Nailfield, on Wednesday, November 18th at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, in the Sussex Churches Red Cross Fund c/o Edward White & Sons, Chichester (01243) 76115.

COYNE - Peter of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, peacefully at home aged 84. A memorial service to be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday, November 18th at St. Andrew's Church, Chipping Norton. Donations to the Children's Society or Christian Aid c/o Dove Direct, 115 Weymouth Street, Harford HM4 0TE.

BURGESS - Claude Bramall, on November 2nd 1998. Beloved husband of Linda.

DEWAR - Rachel Louisa, on November 8th 1998, peacefully at London, Surrey. Her husband, the late Colonel Gordon Dewar, C.B.E., Royal Hampshire Regiment. Burial at St. Mary the Virgin, Farnham on Wednesday, November 11th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5BT.

BIRTHS
WELSON - On November 4th at The Royal Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, to Julie and Graham, a son, Oliver Thomas, brother for Alexandra.

WINTER - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Kate and David, a son, Peter E. Dennis, a brother for Lucy.

MUS - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Melanie and Marzita, a daughter, Caroline, a sister for Oliver.

ANDERSON - Margaret Kathleen Anderson (née Fordy) on November 8th 1998, aged 87 years. Devoted wife of the late Mr James Anderson. Much loved by her children, Carol, Jonathan, Janet, Julie and Charlene. Loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral and cremation service at the Parish Church, Nailfield, on Wednesday, November 18th at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, in the Sussex Churches Red Cross Fund c/o Edward White & Sons, Chichester (01243) 76115.

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To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

THE TIMES PERSONAL COLUMN

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT

PROFESSOR

PERSONAL

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT RONNIE SEDDON

Lieutenant Ronald Seddon, DSC, RNVR, died on October 18 aged 80. He was born on December 14, 1917.



Paul Seddon (centre) with crew members after one of his exploits on MTB 718

Soon after joining the Navy as an Ordinary Seaman at the outbreak of the Second World War, Ronnie Seddon received a commission, and after a period serving in a destroyer, he was appointed to Coastal Forces, operating mainly at night.

Coastal Forces' motor torpedo boats and motor gunboats fought innumerable battles in the narrow seas of the Dover Straits, the North Sea and the Channel, groping for the enemy with often poor visibility, keeping as quiet as possible until contact was made. Then, with all engines at full power, their lightly built craft would close at high speed to the short ranges necessary for a successful torpedo attack.

that recovered them: he said afterwards that he hoped he would never have another month like it in all his life.

MTB 718 thereafter carried out a number of sorties behind enemy lines in support of the French Resistance in Brittany, some of which were punctuated with gunfire and hardly clandestine. From October 1944, however, Seddon was again employed on a series of five long-distance clandestine operations to Norway and Denmark, bringing back agents from an island near Stavanger and playing cat-and-mouse with German convoy escorts in the Skagerrak.

Before the war Ronnie Seddon had been an actor at the Liverpool Playhouse — and it was this that led to MTB 718 being "adopted", by the playwrights of the crew, by the Windmill Theatre of the famous "44" never closed double entendre rather than, as was more usual, by a local council. He also played football for the Liverpool Reserves.

PAUL MCKEE



Paul McKee, former Deputy Chief Executive of ITN and Deputy Managing Director of Yorkshire Television, died from leukaemia on November 9 aged 59. He was born on March 7, 1939.

PAUL MCKEE did more than anyone else to change the face of British television on general election nights. Starting in 1966 from small, almost Heath Robinson, beginnings, he applied computers to the virtually instant presentation of results on the screen.

His first encounter with television and politics was in 1964, at the election which first brought Harold Wilson to office. He was one of the team of computer experts recruited to assist ITN from the English Electric Company.

These were the salad days of TV's dalliance with computers. Alastair Burnet was making his first appearance as the presenter of ITN's election night coverage in Studio Nine in Television House, Association-Rediffusion's headquarters in Kingsway, London.

operate the machine's keyboard, not only to analyse election trends, but to discover voting patterns rather like an air traffic controller monitoring flight paths on his screen. This enabled ITN to spot early trends and get more interesting voting stories on the air and in half the time it had previously taken.

Peter Snow was the first to use the device on election night. It was called MT30 and was the equivalent of a Bletley aeroplane compared with his current graphics on the BBC. Peter Sissons operated the much enhanced system after Snow joined the BBC's election team.

His cool temperament and keen mind built confidence in all who worked with him on election nights — Alastair Burnet, Peter Snow, Peter Sissons, Robert Kee, Alastair Stewart, Andrew Gardner, Peter Jay, George Fitch. He was always available with wise and reasonable advice.

At elections from the 1970s into the 1980s he would assemble, in the dug-out below the anchorman's desks, a remarkable array of brain power, ranging from a Cambridge professor to senior executives in computer companies, who would be keen to carry out any number crunching for him. It would be left to McKee to read the election runes and fine-tune the running forecast of the final outcome. Apart from bringing a military professionalism to the task in hand, he regarded it all as huge fun.

From 1977 to 1986, he was deputy chief executive of ITN and from 1986 to 1988 deputy managing director of Yorkshire Television. His other passion was horse racing. With a few friends he owned Little Polveir, which won the Scottish Grand National in 1987. They sold the horse in 1989, a matter of weeks before it won the Grand National. A friend who watched the Aintree race with McKee said that after the finish he stood by his Lenten commitment not to take a drink, but came near to chewing the carpet.

In the 1970s McKee joined ITN's managerial team. The election unit had become concerned that the fascinating analysis of voting trends, which poured from the computer, was not available quickly enough and in presentable form for the anchorman to take advantage of it on the air. From then on McKee transformed the nature of ITN's coverage on election nights. He discovered a way of turning the computer's output into graphic images directly onto the TV screen. The system was based on a device used in the textile industry to draw designs of Fair Isle jumpers.

ITN then dispensed with using academics on the air to explain the variable voting trends as the results poured in. Journalists were trained to

Paul McKee went to school at St Bede's Grammar School, Bradford, and graduated as a mathematician from Imperial College, London. Having made himself indispensable to ITN, he went on to develop his career in a unique way for British television bosses. Soon he was straddling several different disciplines. He was ITN's key negotiator with Channel Four at the start of Channel Four News. He played a leading role as manager in introducing new technology into ITN. He continued to mastermind ITN's election night computer programming and started to develop exit polls with the Lou Harris Organisation. For a while he edited Channel Four News.

PROFESSOR EVAN FLETCHER



Professor Evan Fletcher, OBE, cardiologist, died on October 14 aged 81. He was born on January 17, 1917.

EVAN FLETCHER was distinguished in three related fields: as a consultant physician, a university professor and contributor to medical research. Born in Northern Ireland, he had a strong classical education, the results of which remained with him for the whole of his life. His prodigious memory and intellect, his enormous knowledge of the classics and of English literature, as well as of modern languages, made him a fascinating companion even to those who did not share his medical interests.

France. Within just a few weeks of leaving the classroom he had carried out hundreds of emergency operations. Maturity, he used to say, came very quickly.

In June 1940 he took part in the evacuation from Dunkirk, and later that year he was sent to India, where he served with distinction for the rest of the war on the North-West Frontier and in Central Command in Delhi. In 1946 he returned home to Northern Ireland and soon became a senior registrar at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed a consultant physician, becoming head of cardiology at the Belfast City Hospital, a post that he held until 1970. He was also a specialist in tropical diseases.

After five years there he returned home and began a further career as adviser in cardiovascular medicine to Glaxo. During a long association with clinical pharmacology within Glaxo his knowledge and experience, particularly in the field of electrocardiology, was put to good use, and he made valuable contributions to the development of a number of important drugs, including Zantac, Imigran and Serenit.

He continued working up to the time of his death, and was very proud at the age of 80 that the company he had chosen to extend his contract. Even at that age he had an obsessively analytical mind and was still capable of making original contributions to a specialist field that he had made very much his own. He also continued to write — poetry among other things — to learn, and to cultivate both his garden and his investment portfolio.

He married Dolores de Grey-Warrier in 1940, and she survives him along with his daughter and a stepdaughter.

He married Dolores de Grey-Warrier in 1940, and she survives him along with his daughter and a stepdaughter.

SIR IAN McLENNAN

Sir Ian McLennan, KCMG, KBE, Australian industrialist, died on October 25 aged 88. He was born on November 30, 1909.

ALTHOUGH he had no wish for personal publicity, Ian McLennan was one of the most influential businessmen and economic innovators in Australian history, making a major contribution to the development of Broken Hill Proprietary — the industrial giant familiarly known as "The Big Australian". Recent market setbacks and executive upheavals at BHP must have caused McLennan much grief and puzzlement, because in his 44 years with the company he did not once see profit decline. BHP advanced hugely under his organised, determined and imaginative leadership, as chief general manager from 1950, managing director from 1967, and then chairman from 1971 to his retirement in 1977.

He took an electrical engineering degree at Melbourne University before enrolling in the BHP cadet scheme in 1933, at its Whyalla plant in South Australia. He showed early ability in management at BHP's major Newcastle steelworks. This was a focus of the war effort from 1939, required speedily to develop ferro-alloys, tungsten carbide and magnesium to replace imports. McLennan's involvement earned him the attention of the powerful Essington Lewis, head of BHP since 1921, and the nation's first wartime director of munitions.

When McLennan began his executive career in 1947, the company was still somewhat uncertainly expanding from its origins mining silver, but McLennan gave a focus to the growing giant, involving it in the entire range of mineral resources. Within five years, he had enlarged the staff of exploration geologists from three to 58, and he accepted expert American advice that Australia's best prospects of oil or natural gas deposits were offshore. In the late 1960s oil and gas were found and developed at several BHP offshore sites, contributing greatly to Australia's stability and prosperity during the oil shocks of the 1970s.

McLennan's continuing interest in science and research, led both to company advances and to his personal involvement in bodies such as Australia's Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation. He retired in November 1977, becoming chairman of ANZ Banking Group until 1982, and holding various other company positions, notably as chairman of Elders (DXL) Ltd from 1981 to 1985.

Appointed CBE in 1956, KBE in 1963, and KCMG in 1979, he received awards also from industry and business, as well as several honorary degrees. In 1986 the Japanese Government conferred on him the First Class Order of the Sacred Treasury, recognising his concern for Australia's new relationship with Asia. In 1957 McLennan married Dora Robertson, the secretary of his first BHP manager; she died in 1982, and he was survived by two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

FORRESTER - John 1921-1992 R.I.P. So much missed S.

BIRTHDAYS

SERVICES

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS

FOR SALE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

FLATSHARE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND. Who fight for us guarding our freedom and our children's future. Some help on hand now. A donation now and a happy later will help soldiers, or soldiers and their families in need.

NEWS

West prepares to attack Iraq

The United States and Britain moved last night to the brink of a military attack against Iraq, rushing extra firepower to the Gulf while pulling staff out of countries across the region.

Last survivors return to sacred theatre

Down the brooding walls of the Menin Gate scroll 57,000 names of the dead from the Ypres Salient who have no known grave. It is the most potent of places for the last act of remembrance to commemorate the end of the First World War.

Museum art theft

Two important oil sketches by John Constable are missing, the Victoria and Albert Museum admitted last night. The London museum last saw them in August and believes they have been stolen.

Maestro poached

The maestro of the New York Philharmonic has been poached for London in a notable coup. Kurt Masur will become principal conductor of the London Philharmonic in autumn 2000.

Traditional role

The Prime Minister has decided to stick with tradition over the appointment of the next Poet Laureate. As he set in train the lengthy procedure of consultation over the successor to Ted Hughes.

CIA quit threat

The director of the CIA threatened to resign last month if President Clinton caved in to Binayamin Netanyahu's demand for the release of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew who did sold thousands of secrets to Israel.

Celebrities blow in

Aid may be slow in reaching hurricane-ravaged Honduras, but the celebrities are arriving in droves. First it was George Bush, the former United States President.

Zimbabwe standstill

Zimbabwe was paralysed as workers throughout the country supported a call to strike in protest over soaring prices and President Mugabe's mishandling of the economy.

Drug charge dropped

A primary school deputy headmistress accused of laundering drugs money spoke of her 10-month ordeal after walking free from court. Charges against Patricia Taylor were dropped when she appeared before magistrates this week.

Pinocchet warning

James Callaghan and Edward Heath could face arrest abroad in connection with allegations of torture in Northern Ireland if the principle of immunity from prosecution for heads of state was removed, five law lords were told.

Drink case retrial

Magistrates who sparked a storm of outrage after failing to impose a drink-drive ban on a hunt master have been ordered to re-hear the case by the Court of Appeal.

Schools on notice

Schools producing some of the best results in the country could nevertheless be letting down their pupils, according to Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

Hamsters don't see to believe

The average hamster on his wheel is going nowhere, fast. But in the great outdoors they can find their way about blindfolded. Swiss scientists have shown that hamsters use a form of dead reckoning, as employed by sailors, to find their food.



Manchester pupils Olivia Hill, 5, Amy Halliwell, 4, and Hugo Allan, 5, joined millions in falling silent for Armistice Day

BUSINESS

Brown's Bill: Gordon Brown is to push ahead with legislation to tighten regulation of the financial services industry in the new session of Parliament.

Trade war: Brussels plans to take legal action against Washington in the WTO over a US threat to impose punitive tariffs against European exports.

Late payment row: Sir Clive Thompson, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, was accused of flouting the spirit of late payment laws at Renault Initial.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 44.5 to 5476.8. The pound fell 11 cents to \$1.6612 and the 1st sterling fell to DM2.7875. The sterling index fell to 100.4 from 100.8.

SPORT

Football: Roy Evans's position as joint manager of Liverpool looked increasingly uncertain after a day of talks at the club. He could be gone this week.

Rugby union: The South African touring team cited the Glasgow flanker, Jason White, over an alleged stamping incident in the opening match.

Crickets: England will not fully reveal their Ashes strategy in their final warm-up game against Queensland, partly because they are uncertain what it should be.

Bryan's Eye: Can there ever be any prize in sport so golden, so glittering, that it is worth the saddest loss of all — the loss of a childhood?

ARTS

Cinema 1: The British film director James Whale, who made Frankenstein and committed suicide in 1957, is himself the subject of two new movies.

Cinema 2: The week's new movies reviewed, including Terry Gilliam's screen version of Hunter S. Thompson's cult Seveneves novel, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

London theatre: Patrick Barlow's National Theatre of Brent brings its gentle royal satire to the West End.

Music coup: Richard Morrison breaks some much-needed good news: the London Philharmonic Orchestra has lured New York's maestro, Kurt Masur, to be its chief conductor.

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Seaweed and cellulite; prostate cancer; children and discipline; hepatitis B; the benefits of tea.

Baring all: "I didn't think it was right that I should keep my clothes on." Nicole Kidman talks to Christa D'Souza about nudity on stage and short men.

Reviews: Harold Evans's editorial brio and adroit use of pictures enthralls Raymond Seitz. Plus reviews of work by Ruth Praver Jhabvala; A.S. Byatt; Michael Ignatieff.

Queen's prizes: Steps leading to progress in higher education have been rewarded with Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

Best buys: Cows and computers: Internet courses in the West Country; Italian cities for Christmas shopping; Latin American specials.

Diplomats from more than 150 nations gathered in Buenos Aires this week to assess what they had done since the Kyoto agreement on global warming last December. The answer is: not much. They can be happy about one thing. Nobody has successfully challenged the urgency of their mission.

THE PAPERS

The New York Times

RADIO & TV

Preview: Victoria Wood's sitcom charts life in a works canteen. Dinnerladies (BBC1, 9.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph on a big step backwards for Inspector Morse.

OPINION

An end to illusions

Saddam now wants to present the international community with a choice between a military response of real consequence or once more offering him a set of inducements to accept a few more months of external evaluation.

Britain needs Scotland

The English and the Scots are indeed different. But we have more in common with each other than with any other country.

Cannabis pills

Many Britons would agree with the inhabitants of several American states who have voted to allow cannabis to be given to patients with severe or terminal illnesses.

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The most fundamental and reliable reason why a recession is extremely unlikely next year, at least in Britain and the United States, is because our Governments and central banks are willing and able to ensure that a recession does not take place.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

For Downing Street these days, power devolved must seem a bit like mercury. Once it escapes, getting it back into the tube is the devil's own business.

ROSEMARY FIGHTER

Just as Saddam advertised his intentions to an inattentive world in the months before he invaded Kuwait, so Iraq has been openly preparing since the spring for a showdown with the UN this autumn.

OUTGOINGS

Li Ronnie Seddon, RNVR; Professor Ewan Fletcher, cardiologist; Paul McKee, TTN.

LETTERS

Territorial Army: aid and debt in Central America; Naonatal Trust; a voice from the trenches; mediation services; First World War; Advent calendars; in praise of bridge players.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Forget BBC's The Human Body. Channel 4's Body Story may be even better.

EDUCATION

What happens when schools force children to sign contracts of good behaviour?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,947

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Where are nails found? Everywhere (2,3,5).
7 Open a container (4).
10 Dislike claim to Jerusalem (8).
11 Horse, for example, requiring plate put back (6).
12 Start to cram fabric in drawer (6).
13 Not exactly honestly — though it could be (2,3,3).
15 Having no application, repeatedly, for children's nurse (4).
16 Want, ultimately, to reproduce top performance? You could do this (4-6).
18 Drew attention to strangely restrictive outside (10).
21 Part in Italian opera? Certainly not (4).
22 Be first in the queue for a title (8).

Stockintrade, a word search puzzle with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

AN INFORMATION

Local Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0236 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0236 401 410

Weather by Fax
Fax 0236 401 410
Fax 0236 401 410

World City Weather
153 observations world wide
by telephone 0236 411210
by fax 0236 411210

Motorway
Europe Country by Country
European Toll Cards
European Motorway
European Park

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7:13 am Sun sets: 4:18 pm
Moon sets: 2:02 pm Moon rises: 11:15 pm

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.05% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

UK business travellers flying within Europe just announced their choice for Best Airline. Many thanks.

FORECAST

General: rain will clear in eastern England to leave a mainly dry afternoon with spells of sunshine. In western parts of England and in Wales there will be sunny spells but showers. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a showery, windy day.

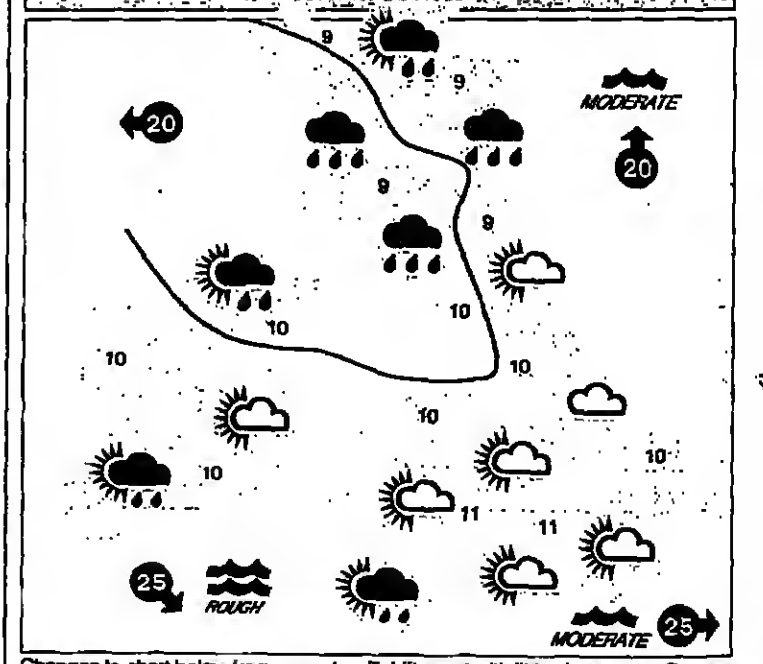
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures across various UK regions like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

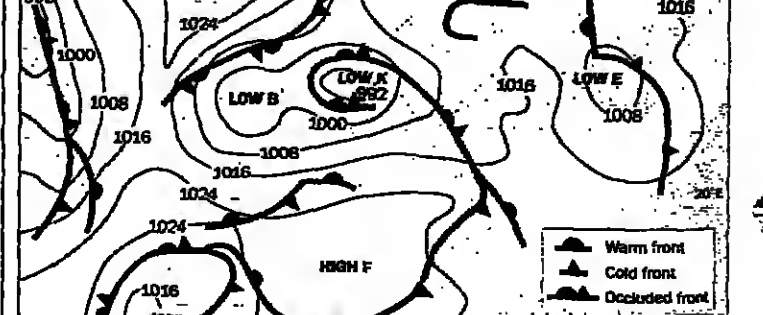
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures in various international cities like Madrid, Moscow, Rome, etc.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below noon: low E drifts east with little change; low B loses its identity; low K moves north and deepens; high F moves south and declines



HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various locations like Aberdeen, Liverpool, London, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temps: Penzance, Cornwall, 14C (15F); lowest day temp: Eardunnamur (Dumfries and Galloway), 7C (45F); Highest rainfall: Lucas (Peak of Glyn), 0.4in; Highest sunshine: Poleskosta, Kent, 8.2hr



GORE-TEX fabric is extremely durable, waterproof, windproof and breathable. Rain and snow can't get in but perspiration can get out. WARNING! GORE-TEX FABRICS MAY CHANGE YOUR LIFE.



Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the word 'Brussels' and 'Bill in Queen's speech'.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Bronwen Maddox
on a bitter harvest
for US farmers
PAGE 33



ARTS
Johnny Depp's new
film has plenty
to fear and loathe
PAGES 38-41



SPORT
The gymnast who
finally had enough
of pushy parents
PAGES 50-56

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages
54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998

Brussels to put banana battle before WTO

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BRUSSELS plans to take legal action against Washington in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over a US threat to impose punitive tariffs against European exports.

The counter-threat of retaliation from the European Commission further escalates the war of words between London and Brussels and increases the chance that the phoney

"banana war" could turn into a full-scale trade conflict.

Fears are growing that Washington's determination to fight the EU's discrimination against Central American bananas might lead to tit-for-tat tariffs. A trade war would tear at shreds plans for a transatlantic economic partnership, a cornerstone of the strategy erected by the big trading blocs to avert recession.

Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission, has written to President Clinton, complaining that unilateral action would be a breach of America's commitments to the WTO. The EU Commission President then threatened to seek settlement of the dispute at the WTO on November 25 if the US fails to back down.

The first shots in the battle were fired on Tuesday when Washington published a lengthy list of goods which would be subjected to 100 per cent duty if the EU failed to reform its banana import regime. The list ranges from French wine to ball-

point pens, and tweed jackets to light fittings.

EU officials were incensed yesterday, claiming that the tariffs would affect European exports worth 1.3 billion euros (£910 million) while the UK alone would suffer a £100 million loss in trade.

The threat and counter-threat is worrying because the high-level brinkmanship could threaten the stability of the WTO. The WTO was created when the system of tariff agreements under the WTO's

predecessor, Gatt, was nearing collapse. In his letter to Mr Clinton, M Santer said the threatened US tariffs would be a grave political misjudgment, given the need to work together to alleviate world economic problems. He wrote: "These are issues of much greater weight than our differences over the banana regime."

A spokesman for the EU Commission said: "This has now gone beyond bananas."

The banana war has been years in the making and concerns the preferential treatment given by Brussels to banana producers in Africa and the Caribbean, mainly former colonies.

The US, jointly with Latin American banana producers, challenged the regime in 1996 and the WTO found in their favour, resulting in new EU rules which are due to come into effect in January.

Scopios view the US action as of dubious origin, pointing to the absence of any American banana production.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5476.8 (+44.5)
Nikkei	14428.02 (+319.93)
DAX	14428.02 (+319.93)
S&P Composite	1128.67 (+0.41)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	Closed (4%)
Long bond	6 3/4% (80%)
Yield	(5.29%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6 3/4% (80%)
Life long gilts	114.37 (114.87)
Future (2y)	

STERLING

New York	1.6810* (1.6587)
London	1.6812 (1.6624)
DM	2.7880 (2.7884)
FF	5.3475 (5.3852)
SF	2.3914 (2.3922)
Yen	202.33 (203.59)
£ Index	100.4 (100.8)

US\$ DOLLAR

London	1.6793* (1.6815)
FF	5.8315* (5.8400)
SF	1.3089* (1.3077)
Yen	121.58* (122.27)
£ Index	106.7 (107.0)

Tokyo close Yen 121.12

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$12.60 (\$12.35)
Oil	
London close	\$293.36 (\$292.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Financial services Bill in Queen's speech

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN is to push ahead with legislation designed to tighten regulation of the financial services industry in the new session of Parliament beginning at the end of this month.

In spite of strong criticism that he is handing over too much power to one central regulator, the Chancellor has managed to secure a slot for his Bill in the forthcoming Queen's speech.

Both he and Tony Blair believe that it would be sending the wrong message if, having called regularly for greater openness and transparency in the Far Eastern financial markets, Britain was seen to be holding back on its own financial services industry.

But the Financial Services and Markets Bill, which has been circulated in draft form, has been changed to take account of criticisms from the industry.

The new Financial Services Authority, which has taken over from the old Securities and Investments Board, has been set up under the chairmanship of Howard Davies, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. However, the FSA is awaiting the passage of the Bill before it can take on its main supervisory and regulatory functions.

Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who will be in charge of piloting the legislation through Parliament, was reported yesterday Treasury sources as believing that the Government has struck a fair balance between the need for a tough regime and the need to avoid putting too many new and burdensome regulations on the industry.

The fiercest behind-the-scenes argument has been over the FSA's powers to deal with market abuse, according to government sources.

es. That appears to have been settled.

But there have also been strong arguments over the authority's accountability, MPs and trade associations for the wholesale and retail securities markets have been pressing for it to be reined back and answerable to Parliament. There have been calls for changes to the disciplinary procedures, which at present offer little protection to alleged wrongdoers until after the authority has decided to censure or fine them.

Mr Byers has been trying to balance the arguments of those who want the Government to crack down on financial cowboys and those who say that too much regulation will see companies moving from London to Frankfurt or other financial centres.

□ The FSA yesterday said that it wants to see personal finance on the curriculum in schools (Anne Ashworth writes).

However, the learning process will not stop at the school gate, but will continue through adult life.

In a consultation paper, the FSA provided an outline of how it would fulfil its statutory obligation of promoting consumer education. Christine Farnish, the FSA's director of consumer relations, said that the aim was to "give consumers the tools they need to make important financial decisions".

The paper makes a number of proposals, including a series of town meetings across the United Kingdom and action to ensure that financial literacy becomes part of the National Curriculum "as a core skill in the preparation for adult life".

In a move that is bound to cause controversy in the financial services industry, the FSA also proposes to develop a range of indicators to help consumers to compare financial offers.



Under Sir Clive Thompson, the chief executive, Rentokil is causing concern among small businesses about its late payment terms to suppliers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rentokil in late-pay row

SIR CLIVE Thompson, President of the Confederation of British Industry, was yesterday accused of flouting the spirit of late payment laws.

New laws demand that big business pays interest at 8 per cent above base rate if it is late paying small suppliers - unless it agrees other terms.

The Federation of Small Businesses has complained

that the chief executive, Rentokil, has offered its hundreds of suppliers 1 per cent above Midland Bank's base rate for bills unpaid after 65 days. Its letter says: "We are only prepared to do business with you on these terms."

The Federation of Small Businesses has complained

Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, that this means small firms can be squeezed by larger businesses.

Bernard Juby, of the federation, said: "This is a prime example of big business dictating its terms to its smaller suppliers. The sting is in the tail as

circular threatens to remove Rentokil's custom unless the supplier accepts the terms."

Small companies had feared the new laws would not give them redress and leave them open to the market forces of the large buyers that buy their goods and services.

At the CBI annual conference Sir Clive said competitiveness was being hampered by regulations such as the minimum wage. The CBI, however, is working with the Department of Trade and Industry on the better payment initiative.

Christopher Pearce, Rentokil's finance director, said: "The law allows us to agree terms... we think 1 per cent is a fair rate... comparable with what people pay on mortgages."

Barings victims' compensation hopes dashed

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HUNDREDS of victims of the 1995 Barings crash have had their last realistic hopes of compensation dashed by the action of three US vulture funds.

Yesterday the Franklin, Halcyon and Scoggins funds voted down proposals that would have given investors in bonds issued by the failed bank in 1986 60 per cent of their money back.

Unlike other institutional investors in the 1986 bonds, the Wall Street trio believe they can hold out for a better deal.

However, their rejection has scuppered a separate deal struck in the summer that would have benefited hundreds of private investors who bought another tranche of bonds from Barings in 1994.

In July the 1994 bondholders voted to accept an offer of just 24 per cent compensation, as part of a complex £55 million settlement hammered out by the City Disputes Panel.

This deal was dependent on the 1986 group of investors accepting their offer.

The dissenting vulture funds were not investors at the time of Barings's demise. However, they have bought more than half of the 1986 floating rate notes from institutional investors who had grown tired of the tortuous compensation process.

The collapse of the settlement means bondholders may have to wait years as Ernst & Young, the liquidators, recommence litigation against PricewaterhouseCoopers, auditors to Barings at the time of its crash. This is not expected to yield much as professional fees in the case already exceed £10 million.

Jonathan Stone, head of the Barings Bondholders Association, blamed the collapse on lengthy legal delays. "The Bank of England should have done more to push a settlement along."

Bank backs Chancellor's optimism

By JANET BUSH

THE Bank of England yesterday unveiled new forecasts that support the Chancellor's view that Britain will escape recession next year and bounce towards recovery in 2000.

The City was broadly sceptical, arguing that the Treasury and the Bank are being too optimistic and interest rates will have to be cut again to stave off recession. In its latest *Inflation Report*, the Bank's central forecast was for growth in 1999 of around 1 per cent, at the lower end of the Chancellor's forecast of between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent. This forecast is, by the usual convention, based on the assumption that base rates remain at 6.75 per cent.

Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank, said there were risks that the economic downturn might prove sharper than the Bank currently expects. He estimated that there is still a one-in-four chance of recession.

Jobs market tightens, page 30

Fox makes its debut on New York exchange

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FOX Entertainment Group yesterday started trading on the New York Stock Exchange after a \$2.8 billion (£1.7 billion) flotation, the third biggest in Wall Street history.

The News Corporation, the parent company of Fox as well as of *The Times*, increased the number of shares being offered to the public at the last minute by nearly a half as a result of the strong demand shown by investors.

Fox is a film and entertainment company that produces television series including *The Simpsons* and *The X-Files*. The Hollywood blockbuster *Titanic*, which Fox co-produced, boosted profits this year.

Part of the money raised through the flotation will be used to repay loans from other News Corp subsidiaries.

The shares, trading under the stock ticker "Fox", rose 14 per cent after the opening in New York. The last minute increase in the size of the flotation meant that News Corp sold 124.8 million shares at \$22.50 instead of the originally planned 85 million shares aimed at raising \$1.9 billion.

At \$22.50, the shares were priced in the middle of the price range originally set at between \$21 and \$24. Investors will now own 18.8 per cent of the entertainment company rather than the 13.4 per cent projected earlier. News Corp will retain 98.5 per cent of the voting power at Fox Entertainment.

When the stock market dipped this autumn there had been speculation the flotation would be delayed.

Goldman Sachs, the investment banking partnership, pulled its own \$30 billion flotation and many smaller companies delayed coming to market.

Tobacco companies in \$200bn settlement

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

US TOBACCO companies and attorneys-general from eight federal states are to announce a \$200 billion (£120 billion) settlement of damages lawsuits tomorrow.

Lawyers have negotiated for several months to find a compromise solution after the historic \$368.5 billion settlement from June 1997 was defeated in Congress.

Executives at BAT, Philip Morris, Loews and RJR Nabisco are expected to approve a final draft of the 100-page document that could significantly lift the tobacco share prices.

The settlement would award the states a maximum of \$200 million over 25 years in return for withdrawing their demands for compensation for the costs of medical care for smokers. The companies will also agree to remove roadside advertising, pay \$1 billion for anti-smoking advertising, stop marketing clothing displaying cigarette brand logos and set up a public institute promoting a reduction in teenage smoking.

However, the companies will not be protected from class action suits and did not negotiate limits to damages awards won by individual smokers.

The eight states that agreed the settlement are expected to be joined by up to 38 other states who will have a week to decide. Florida, Texas, Mississippi and Minnesota have reached bilateral agreements worth a total of \$40 billion.

Commentary, page 31

Power is nothing, without support

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Jobs market shows signs of tightening

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JANET BUSH

UNEMPLOYMENT rose in October providing firm evidence that the economic slowdown is beginning to hit the labour market.

The claimant count measure of unemployment recorded its first increase since May, climbing by 6,800 to 1.32 million in October.

The International Labour Organisation unemployment data, which is the Government's preferred measure, also rose by 3,000 to 1.8 million in the three months to September, the second consecutive monthly increase.

It was the first time since 1992 that both measures of unemployment have risen at the same time. However, the number of people in employment continued to rise, climbing 124,000 in the three months to September.

Economists said the double rise in unemployment was a clear signal that the labour market was now turning but they added that labour demand remained strong in the service sector and was likely to prevent too sharp a rise in unemployment in the months ahead.

The Bank of England's latest *Inflation Report*, however, left City analysts confused. While the Treasury's most recent forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent growth next year factored in big rate cuts, the Bank's prediction of 1 per cent growth is based on unchanged rates. The implication is that the Bank would need to see a sharper economic deterioration than it currently expects to justify further rate cuts.

However, a large body of opinion in the City believes that this will happen and more rate cuts are on the way.

David Hillier, economist at Barclays Capital, forecast two more 0.5 per cent cuts in the new year. "The economic numbers will eventually force the Monetary Policy Committee to face facts," he said.



John Sinclair is leaving GRE after more than 30 years

Sinclair to stand down from Guardian

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN SINCLAIR is standing down as Guardian Royal Exchange's executive director for the UK and Ireland.

Mr Sinclair, 50, is retiring in April. News of his departure surprised analysts, who believed he and James Morley, group executive director of finance, were contenders to succeed John Robins as chief executive upon his retirement.

Mr Sinclair played a key role in GRE's plans to relaunch its life and pensions business to enable it to expand into an increasingly competitive marketplace. He will be succeeded by Peter Owen, formerly chief executive of PPP healthcare group, which was taken over by GRE at a cost of £560 million in February.

Mr Owen was previously group chief executive of Aer Lingus and operations director of British Airways at its privatisation in 1987.

John Sinclair joined GRE in 1967 and was appointed to the main board in 1990.

Rate cut cheers credit card customers

By JILL INSLEY

BARCLAYCARD has cut the interest rate for 9.4 million credit card holders, and other credit card companies are reviewing their rates following harsh criticism of their pricing policies.

Consumer watchdogs attacked banks and building societies earlier this week for not passing on the benefit of last week's 0.5 per cent base rate change to credit card customers. The National Consumer Council described the credit card companies' failure to reduce interest rates as "absolutely extraordinary".

Yesterday Barclaycard chopped its rate by one point, taking effect from December 1, reducing its standard Visa interest rate from 22.9 per cent APR to 21.9 per cent APR, but denied it was responding to consumer pressure.

NatWest and Midland, are also reviewing their interest rates, but say that no changes are imminent. Lloyds TSB, Bank of Scotland, Goldfish and the Halifax also have no plans for an immediate cut.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Head of Microsoft Internet arm quits

MICROSOFT has parted company with its top Internet executive over his failure to catch up with rivals. The move is seen as a signal that the company is not as dominant as the US Justice Department claims in the current antitrust trial. The software house has tried to develop a third major Internet portal, or web gateway, in direct competition to American Online and Yahoo!

Pete Higgins, a group vice-president, was in the middle of repositioning Microsoft Network, the Internet subsidiary, when he announced his resignation. The Internet subsidiary will be temporarily run by Steve Ballmer, the president and potential successor to Bill Gates, the group's founder chairman. Microsoft has been trying to establish itself on the Internet for a number of years. Originally, it tried to attract web-surfers by offering entertainment content, teaming up with America's NBC network and launching *Slate*, an online magazine. But the strategy was reversed after Microsoft incurred losses. A new strategy is aimed at offering services like online banking and retailing on Microsoft Network. The company this month signed up Bank One and Merrill Lynch to provide financial services.

Peptide buys OraVax

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS has acquired OraVax of the US in a \$15 million (£9 million) deal. Like Peptide, OraVax is a vaccine development company but its Nasdaq-listed shares collapsed as it ran out of money. Peptide is buying preferred stock for \$3 million in cash and is offering new shares to OraVax's common stockholders. John Brown, Peptide's chief executive, intends to retain OraVax's base in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The deal gives Peptide the US rights to a yellow fever vaccine that is already sold by Medeva in Europe.

European silent

EUROPEAN LEISURE, which has recently built a 23.9 per cent stake in Waterfall Holdings, refused to be drawn on its intentions towards its rival at yesterday's annual meeting, despite the presence in the audience of Edward Cooke, Waterfall's acting finance director. The group told shareholders that trading was "in line with expectations", with like-for-like sales in its Rileys sports division up 7.2 per cent while its bars and discos arm was down 2.3 per cent. It has opened five Rileys pool and snooker halls since June.

Railtrack office sale

RAILTRACK is selling Southwark Towers, a large office block above London Bridge station for £37.4 million. The rail utility is selling a long lease on the 24-storey building to Sellar Property Group. The sale follows the recent disposal of the freehold of the Broadgate office complex at Liverpool Street station and forms part of Railtrack's efforts to generate more value from its property holdings. The company has also stepped up development activity with projects planned at Broadgate, Paddington and Clapham Junction.

Shire stays profitable

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals managed to stay profitable in the third quarter despite the explosion that disrupted US production of its biggest-selling medicine. Shire reported a pre-tax profit of £800,000, after a quarterly loss last year of £500,000. Its total for nine months is £6.2 million (£600,000 loss). Rolf Stahel, chief executive, estimates a loss of \$10 million (£6 million) in sales because of the disruption. However, bolstered by last year's acquisitions, sales for the quarter were much higher at £16.3 million (£9 million).

Partners losses deepen

PARTNERS HOLDINGS, which operates specialist stationery shops, reported pre-tax losses of £1.17 million for the six months to October 10, compared with a loss of £64,000 for the corresponding period last year. Turnover increased 11 per cent to £18.34 million. Michael Scorey, chairman, said there were "many positive aspects within the business", including a review of product ranges, refurbished stores and a strengthened marketing team. The loss per share was 5.7p (0.2p loss). The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.5p.

Rover settlement close

ROVER is understood to be close to a deal with its unions that would cut up to 2,500 jobs and introduce more flexible working. BMW, Rover's German parent, has made it clear that the Rover factory at Longbridge faces closure unless it becomes more productive. Both BMW and Rover have been locked in negotiations with unions — the AEEU, the TGWU and the MSP — for several weeks. An AEEU spokesman said that there could be an announcement next week. BMW set a deadline of November 30.

Cadcentre advances

HALF-YEAR profits at Cadcentre Group, the supplier of computer-aided design software, jumped 63 per cent, well ahead of expectations. In the six months to September 30, Cadcentre recorded a pre-tax profit of £1.37 million, up from £841,000 last time, on turnover of £8.8 million, up from £8.25 million. Earnings per share increased 51 per cent to 5p and the company declared an interim dividend of 1.6p (1.2p). Cadcentre said that the results reflected tightly controlled overheads.

Slough scores victory

SLOUGH ESTATES has scored a strategic victory in its £270 million hostile bid for rival Bilton by persuading Schroders to sell its stake for £34 million. Schroders was Bilton's largest shareholder, with a 16.9 per cent stake. It has sold 11 million shares, or 12.5 per cent, lifting Slough's stake to 25.5 per cent. Slough paid Schroders 307p a share, compared with a market price of 293p. Bilton shares rose 2p from 291p yesterday, but are still below Slough's 307p-a-share cash offer.

Borrowing boost for UK airports

AIRPORTS owned by local authorities are to be allowed to borrow capital on the money markets from April 1 next year to speed up their development. Relaxed borrowing restrictions should benefit airports in Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds and Bradford, Norwich, Teesside, Gloucestershire, Exeter, Blackpool and Humberside. Newcastle Airport said the decision boosts its plans to build an additional terminal for support services such as catering and maintenance. It wants to invest £220 million between now and 2006. The lifeline of borrowing restrictions is subject to parliamentary approval.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.72	2.54
Austria Sch	20.68	19.97
Belgium Fr	60.95	55.88
Canada \$	2.687	2.499
Denmark Dkr	0.8951	0.7958
Denmark kr	11.19	10.30
Finland Mk	5.95	5.24
Finland Mk	9.03	8.29
France Fr	9.94	9.08
Germany Dm	2.363	2.11
Greece Dr	494	455
Hong Kong \$	13.88	12.46
Iceland Is	126	115
Indonesia	16656	11899
Ireland P	1.1788	1.0876
Israel Sh	7.38	6.72
Italy Lire	2933	2695
Japan Yen	216.88	199.55
Malta	0.861	0.802
Netherlands Gld	3.268	3.041
New Zealand \$	3.26	3.02
Norway Kr	12.98	12.04
Poland Zl	292.50	278.47
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.36
Sweden Kr	248.65	228.56
Switzerland Fr	2.454	2.296
Taiwan Ntd	802.53	749.75
USA \$	1.766	1.633

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Surprisingly ordinary prices



هكذا من الأصل

Microsoft arm quits

Microsoft's Internet arm has quit the company with its top Internet executives to catch up with rivals. The move is the company's not as dominant as it once was in the current Internet boom. Microsoft has tried to develop a third major gateway, in direct competition to Yahoo.

buys OraVax

Orion has acquired OraVax of the US. Like Pepcid, OraVax is a generic drug. The Nasdaq-listed shares in the company were trading at 1.50 on Monday. The group sold shares to buy back shares. The group sold shares to buy back shares.

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W.H. Smith has recently built a 25.9 per cent stake in the company. The group sold shares to buy back shares. The group sold shares to buy back shares.

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Pensions young guns could backfire

Whenever two people from the pensions industry meet, there is but one question: "Do you know what on earth they are planning?" they ask each other. The Secretary of State for Social Security, Alistair Darling, has assured sceptics that there will be a Green Paper on pensions later this year, but that is just about as far as the industry's knowledge of the Government's thinking on the subject goes. Pensions are a complicated business and the experts in the industry would have hoped that they could have worked alongside Government in trying to come up with a solution to the crisis that looms ahead. Instead, they fear that the Treasury and the Department of Social Security may be relying too much on the advice of bright young things of limited experience, much of that gained in the unreal world of think-tanks. There may be a touch of ageist sour grapes in scathing references to "the children" who play in the corridors of Whitehall, but when it comes to dealing with the intricacies of what would be a workable system for a second pension, the grey-haired actuaries may have a contribution to make. Some of them might even be brave enough to risk getting caught in the crossfire between Social Security and the Treasury, as they battle for the leading role in the pensions issue.

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

There will be scope for consultation once the Green Paper is published, but such consultation is likely to be more constructive if the proposals in the paper are workable. The worry in the industry is that they will be presented with ideas that they cannot put into practice. The difficult gestation of Isa has certainly provided reason for them to be concerned over what might be hatching on the pensions front. The latest indication is that the Government is warming to the idea of an element of compulsion for the second pension. The National Association of Pension Funds has always maintained that this is essential if stakeholder pensions are to serve a meaningful purpose. Frank Field, however, recently let fly at the Government for giving up on his idea of compulsion. Perhaps he was merely trying to use his new position on the back benches to stimulate action. There is also growing doubt over whether the Government will press ahead with plans to provide second pensions for those not in a position to contribute. Tax credits are a fine idea but they will prove extremely expensive. Despite the relative optimism of the Chancellor, now almost backed up by the Bank of England, there will be some reluctance to commit to the cost of stakeholder pensions all round. No doubt the Green Paper will make government thinking clear. But, despite all the talk of open government, the fact is that, for the time being, those who will have to provide the new pensions feel themselves completely in the dark.

A cold Christmas for retailers

Richard Handover voiced the fear of all retailers yesterday. As if the downturn in trade in recent weeks was not bad enough, the W.H. Smith chief executive introduced the spectre of real dread by admitting that Christmas would be "very late, very tough". It will come, of course, it always does. And generally it turns out to be a record one at the tills. This year could be different. For the climate, in both senses, could hardly be worse for retailers. The lack of consumer confidence that is already hitting the high street will, if anything, have intensified as the end of the year approaches amid news of rises, however small, in the unemployment figures. In the meantime, the weather has conspired to be unseasonably difficult for the stores. If you spot a group of depressed men in suits praying for snow, they are not ski enthusiasts but high street retailers with racks of fur-trimmed coats cluttering up their stores. But instead of a cold snap, there has been rain, which at least penalises all retailers equally. When it reported a disappointing turn in trade recently, Boots offered a series of rainy weekends as a possible explanation. The combination of difficult weather and frightened consumers has left the stores horribly overstocked. When Sir Richard Greenbury has a chance to concentrate on something other than who might be trying to move into his office, he will have to figure out how to deal with a potential stock overflow. Marks's suppliers will, as usual, be asked to remember that they are partners in this retailing lark and to take their share of the pain, in margin cuts and cancelled orders. The picture will be the same throughout the industry. And consumers have learnt that, if they hang on long enough, the stores are forced to cut prices. Mid-season sales and offers of autumn value will merge into January sales which, in many cases, start in December. Canny Christmas shoppers will be fulfilling Mr Handover's nightmare, and holding on to their purses until the sales are in full swing. By then, retail margins will have been decimated. A few stores are managing to defy the trend: New Look, which

reports next week, seems to be persuading its young customers to keep spending. But the W.H. Smith experience is the more common one. Retail shares are trading at a discount to the market, but only a narrow one. Like the goods in the stores, prices have further to fall.

Time to filter tips on lifting spending

The lawyers have had their fun and made their fortunes and now it looks as if the tobacco companies may be about to gain some respite from the years of litigation that have cast a shadow on their lungs. The shares of BAT leapt forward yesterday in anticipation of the good news, now scheduled to arrive on Friday. The settlement will not come cheaply but it is going to be spread over a long enough period to ease the pain and it looks likely to be within the boundaries for which the companies had been prepared. The sum is smaller than had been feared and the 25 years as long as could have been hoped for. There will still be the risks of individual law suits to contend with but once the tedious major litigation is out of the way, the tobacco industry will at least be able to devote more attention to the pressing issues of how to cope with the loss of consumer spending power in many markets (answer: forget about selling premium-priced products. Smokers will still smoke but they will trade down), and how to contend with the increasingly sophisticated smuggling that has long been a feature of the industry. The companies will also have to use their ingenuity to find new ways of promoting their products in the US, given the new restrictions under which they will have to labour. Perhaps a brain-storming session with Bernie Ecclestone could produce some useful pointers.

EGGING on the Pru

PRUDENCE, that virtue so admired by the Chancellor, makes the name Prudential an obvious choice for companies in the financial services business. That puts limits on the way that our own dear Pru can present herself when travelling abroad. Sir Peter Davis is thought not to be completely averse to a change of name, particularly after some of the underlining headlines it has attracted of late. But Eggs must be kept in its box, fine for a frisky new account but, please, not for the country's biggest investor.

W H Smith feels impact of high street slowdown

W.H. SMITH emerged as the latest casualty of the high street slowdown yesterday as it announced that sales growth had plunged by 1 per cent in recent weeks (see Commentary, this page). The company, which is refurbishing its 400 stores to stock more books and fewer sweets, said like-for-like growth had been steadily slowing from 6 per cent since summer.

Richard Handover, who became chief executive of the company last year, said: "We are not immune from what's happening out there. But other retailers are seeing an actual decline in sales; we are still growing so it's not a bad performance under the circumstances." He added that growth of 1 per cent, which covered the ten 10 weeks to November 7, de-



Dick Brown, chief executive, left, and Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, want C&W to be a "big player" on the Continent

C&W takes route to Europe

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is set to announce a significant new push into Europe without Telecom Italia, its original partner. Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, said: "We have got to be a player in Europe and we will be." Yesterday C&W reported a 10 per cent increase in profits to £1.1 billion before tax

and exceptional items for the six months to the end of September. Turnover rose 11 per cent to £4.33 billion, including share of joint ventures. In Europe C&W will compete for the corporate and business market, rather than residential business. Overall, Mr Brown said "great strides" had been made in rebalancing the company away from dependence on revenues from Hong Kong and traditional telephone revenues.

The acquisition of MCI's US Internet business for about £1 billion would add £235 million a year in revenues, a sum that would grow by 50 per cent a year. Mr Brown said: "Earnings are being impacted by difficult trading conditions in Hong Kong. However, the overall prospects for the group remain encouraging." Earnings rose 12 per cent to 17p a share before exceptional items. The interim dividend is increased 9 per cent to 3.75p. The shares rose 8p to 656p.

CGU delivers surprise lift

BETTER than expected results from CGU helped to calm the market's fears that general insurance profits in the UK could be heading for meltdown. CGU, the largest UK life and general insurer, reported pre-tax operating profit of £425 million (1997: £746 million) for the nine months to September 30. In addition to weather claims, price competition hit CGU's profits and disguised a record life profit of £340 million. Claims from the North American ice storms and hurricanes created the worst catastrophe losses the company has ever suffered in these regions. Weather claims in the US increased by £58 million to £92 million. Worldwide life profits were 16 per cent higher at

constant exchange rates, however, and life and savings new business grew 21 per cent. CGU was formed from the £15 billion merger of Commercial Union and General Accident in June. Bob Scott, chief executive, ruled out a mega-merger with the likes of RSA. He did, however, hint at acquisitions on the general insurance side. "We do not expect to get growth out of the business organically. Our policy is to look at everything that moves," he said. Year 2000 costs are estimated to be £110 million and the introduction of the euro estimated to cost about £110 million. The recent floods have cost CGU an estimated £25 million. Tempus page 32

W&D considers bid

THE long-awaited consolidation of the regional brewery sector creaked into life yesterday as Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries (W&D) confirmed that it may bid for its Midlands neighbour, Marston's. In response to mounting speculation of a 250p-a-share bid, W&D issued a Stock Exchange statement confirming that it was "contemplating making an approach to Marston's".

Although an approach looks imminent, the company insisted that "no final decision has been made". A hostile bid is considered unlikely. Shares in Marston's, which had hit a low of 172p earlier this week compared with 360p in early summer, fell 32p higher to 231p, giving it a market value of £210 million. W&D's shares were unchanged at 419p. W&D's market capitalisation is almost identical to Marston's. Neither side would comment further.

LTCM bounces back

LONG TERM Capital Management has rebounded and earned a small profit for the 14 Wall Street banks that rescued the hedge fund in a \$3.6 billion (£2.2 billion) bailout. After the recent rise in the stock market and interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, the fund's net assets have risen above their level prior to the rescue. The gain is said to be about 1 per cent. The return of confidence to the mar-

ket has helped to make Long Term Capital's complex derivative investments profitable again. John Meriwether, the fund's founder, had bet earlier this year that volatility in the market would decline and the yield spread between safer government bonds and riskier junk bonds would be reduced. The strategy wiped out most of the fund's capital when markets experienced extreme turmoil this summer. But now calm has returned, his bets no longer look quite so foolish.

Advertisement for CNBC. The background is a dark, textured image of a globe. The text reads: "In business, knowing what's going to happen before anyone else isn't ESP. It's CNBC." Below this is the CNBC logo and the text "Available on Cable, Sky and SkyDigital First in Business Television Worldwide". At the bottom, there is a list of stock market indices: "Rio de Janeiro 682.05 -2 Paris 195 -2 Schroders 1992 +15 Shell 354 -9 Zeneca 2102 -24 Paris CAC 40 3269.9 -40.7 AXA-JAP 520.05 -36 Dussel 147.50 -3 Air Liquide 12309 +166 London FTSE 250 4535.0 +6.1 Frankfurt Xetra Dax 4585.2 +0.8 Dow Jones Euro STOXX 230.67 -1.34 Milan 12309 +166".

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Investors fail to sustain their early enthusiasm

LONDON got off to a flying start with the help of a positive response by Far Eastern markets to the latest Japanese economic package.



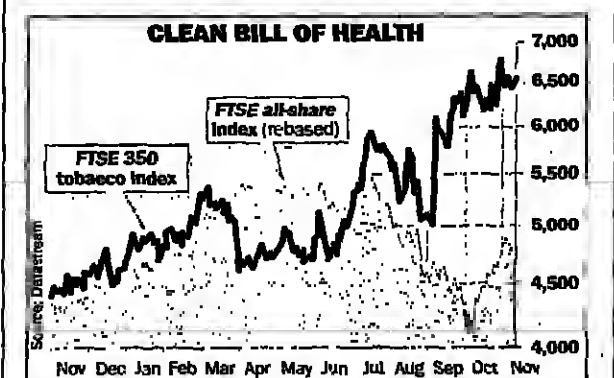
Light relief: Peter Hollins, chief executive, left, and John Robb, chairman of British Energy, saw shares up 37p to 620p

The FTSE 100 index closed up 44.5 points at 5,476.8, after briefly touching 5,516.3. By contrast the FTSE 250 index ended 1.6 down at 4,872.8 with total turnover reaching a modest \$83 million share.

Financials led the way higher with Standard Chartered up 29p to 620p and HSBC 37p to £14.47 reflecting the strong gains overnight in Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Tate & Lyle jumped 30p to 354p. Dealers say the shares had some catching up to do after several large price moves were entered into the system late on Tuesday at the 324p level.

Heritage Bathrooms soared 44p to 196p after announcing it had received a bid approach. The company says it could lead to an offer worth 220p a share valuing the business at £40.4 million.



HOPES of a settlement in the long-running litigation between the tobacco companies and US Medicaid public health scheme buoyed shares of the British tobacco companies.

traders say they are still optimistic that a bid for the building materials group will be forthcoming. Rival Travis Perkins, up 1p to 441p, is a name that continues to be bandied around.

Some cautious comments from HSBC James Capel, the broker, left Kwik-Fit 17p lower at 470p. It has received his recommendation for the shares from "hold" to "reduce" claiming they are too expensive.

A downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, left Avis Europe 14p lower at 240p after moving its recommendation from "buy" to "hold".

The biggest fall on the day was seen in Inner Workings, down 12p to 47p. The fall came on the back of a placing of 3.4 million new shares at a heavily discounted 35p.

Terms of an agreed bid hoisted Crabtree Group 7p to 48p. LTC Technology is offering 50p a share in cash valuing the group at £10.14 million.

Keep an eye on Oxfeld-listed Corsellis-Montford Group. The company is being mentioned in the same breath as Ebay in the US which has been earning a fortune providing an Internet online auction site.

Also on Oxfel, Cherokee Leisure "B" marked time at 12p after weighing in with profits of £578,000. The group is still in talks with the Berkeley Playhouse Group.

GILT-EDGED: Hopes of another early cut in base rates suffered a setback with the publication of the Bank of England quarterly inflation report. It forecast GDP of just 1 per cent in 1999 with inflation rising above its 2.5 per cent target.

NEW YORK: US shares moved higher but gains in blue chips were restricted by unease over interest rates. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 16.99 points to 8,880.77.

Table of Major Indices: New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 350, etc.

Table of Recent Issues: Anglian Water B, Chartered, Collective Assets Trust, etc.

Table of Rights Issues: Innovative Tech up (44), etc.

Table of Major Changes: RISES: Stock, Oxford Molecular, etc.; FALLS: Stock, Inner Workings, etc.

TEMPUS Fairweather friend

IN AN insurance sector buffeted by losses from hurricanes, ice storms and floods, it pays to have a flourishing life business. CGU's shares rose 36p to 929p yesterday because the market drew comfort from the news that its long-term savings business is growing strongly.

After disappointing results from Royal & SunAlliance (RSA) last week, analysts' darkest fears were that general insurance claims were so high and competition so tough that the sector was about to go into freefall.

CGU yesterday proved otherwise. Bob Scott, chief executive, believes tight control of underwriting and more efficient claims handling is the solution to some of the most difficult trading conditions the sector has seen.

CGU has succeeded in increasing premiums by 8 per cent this year, losing just 100,000 of its 1.9 million total policyholders.

Though Mr Scott appears to have ruled out another mega-merger in the short term, he predicts that consolidation in the sector will speed up as insurers' investment returns come under pressure in a low-growth environment.

While the markets were enjoying a bull run, insurers could get away with sloppy underwriting because their portfolios were making a more than adequate return on capital.

British Energy

THE City is certainly giving British Energy the benefit of the doubt, for many long-term uncertainties hang over the business.

It is far from clear whether the company will establish itself as one of a small number of energy companies that will survive in the UK or whether it will merely be the producer of a source of expensive energy that will suffer as the overall cost of power declines.

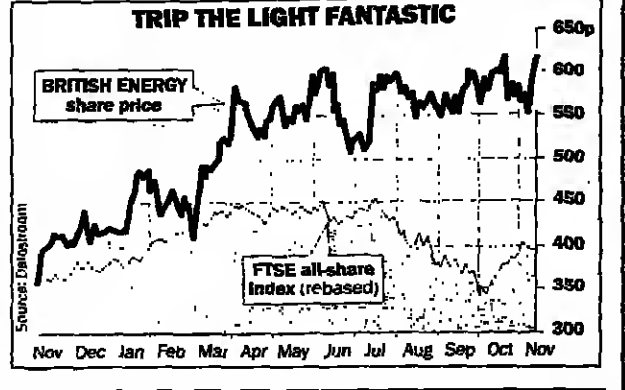
The company's strategy in the UK evolves around the purchase of a regional electricity business and a broader portfolio of generation. It may win the battle for London Electricity against Electricite de France. But at a cost of £2 billion-plus, returns from the business will be modest.

GWR

SOME sweet sounds are coming out of GWR, the commercial radio group that owns Classic FM. Local stations are improving margins, the decision to set up its own sales house is already paying dividends, and Classic is producing several millions of profit.

Overseas, particularly in the US, progress may be slower than British Energy would wish.

The company produced bright profit figures, buoyed by one-off factors, but all things considered, it is still very much on the launching pad. After a strong run from 395p a year ago, British Energy shares are a hold at 620p.



WALL STREET

It could be several years before the company gets much relief, although Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has been making helpful noises.

Further margin improvement at GWR is likely and radio remains on a roll but GWR may have little alternative but to place greater emphasis on international expansion.

While the shares are worth holding if you own them already, there is better value elsewhere.

There is no doubt that the current trading environment is tough, particularly in the UK, where sales and profits have been pretty flat.

But this has not stopped the group from pursuing growth in Japan - where its catalogue format is new - and through Internet sales.

While the shares are worth holding if you own them already, there is better value elsewhere.

Table of Commodities: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (POD), MEAT & LIVESTOCK, etc.

Table of LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

Table of MONEY RATES (%): Prime Bank Rate, Discount Rate, etc.

Table of DOLLAR RATES: Australia, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Table of OTHER STERLING: Argentina peso, Australia dollar, etc.

Table of WALL STREET: AAPL, AMZN, MSFT, etc.

Table of LIFE OPTIONS: Various financial instruments and rates.

Table of LONDON METAL EXCHANGE: Gold, Silver, etc.

Table of EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%): Currency, 7 day, 1 month, etc.

Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co.): Bullion, Options, etc.

Table of FTSE VOLUMES: Various stock market volume data.

Table of STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES: Mid Rates for November 11, etc.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'America from C' and 'Stalled'.

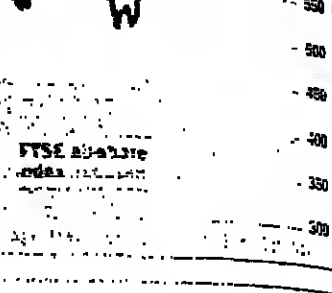
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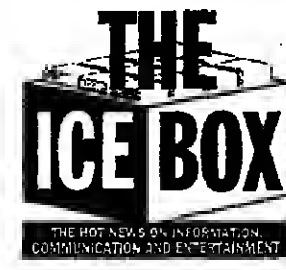


WALL STREET

Litigation may increase bug threat

Both business leaders and the Government fear that litigation over the millennium bug could seriously damage Britain's chances of tackling the computer problem effectively.

Without protection, British companies face three potential legal threats. First, a company that admits its products or services are not millennium-compliant could become vulnerable to legal action from disgruntled customers.



Pledge 2000 has no guarantee that it will not be used against it in subsequent legal proceedings.

A US company may be able to claim protection under the Good Samaritan law, while a British company will certainly find it more difficult.

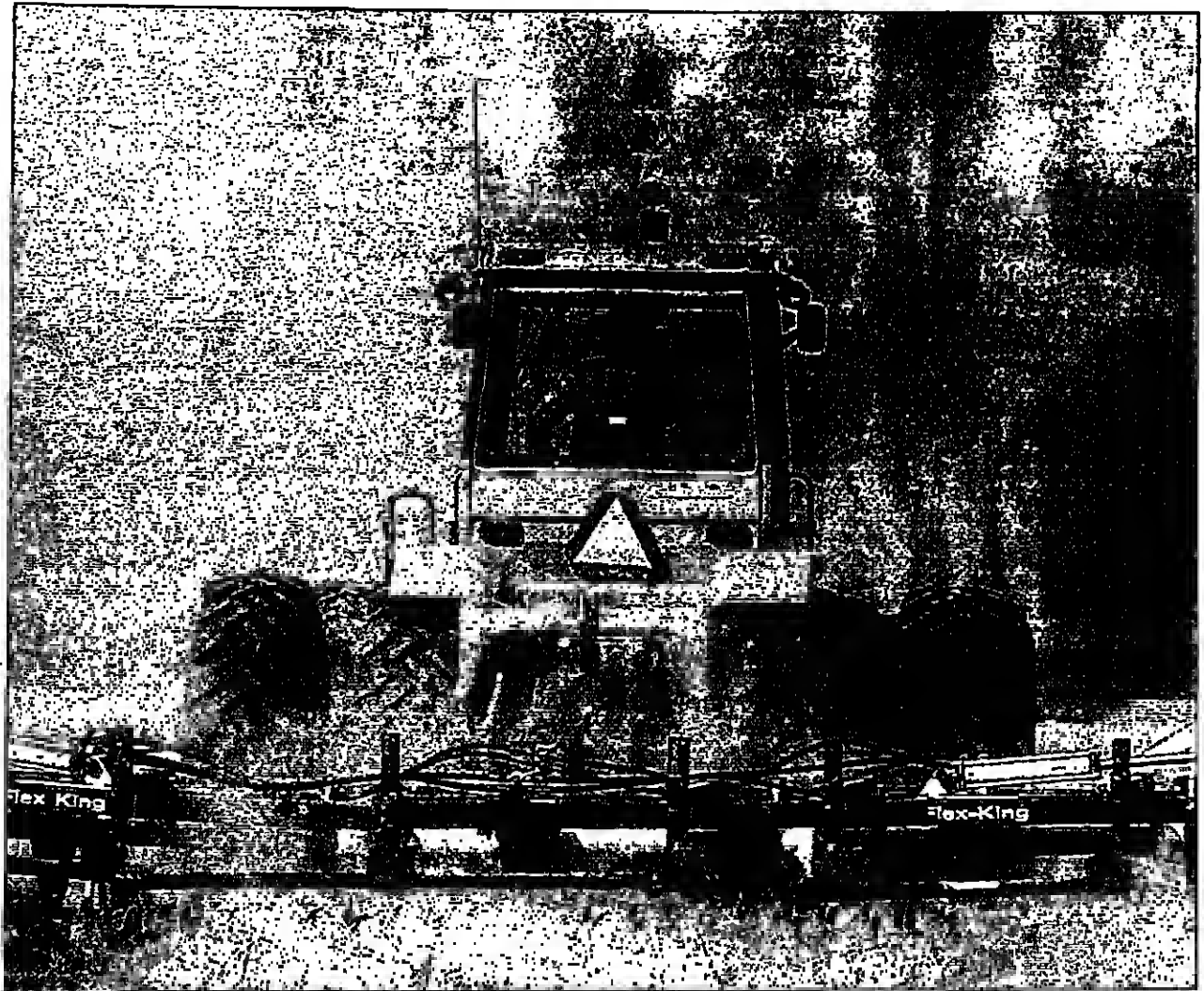
RECORD companies will soon be able to track the success of their artists online, when a new service is launched in the new year by the Chart Information Network (CIN).

record companies to receive customised reports. The service will also give access to chart information dating back to February 1994.

America reaps a bitter harvest from Gingrich's farm reforms



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX



Facing a surplus crisis, and with prices showing no sign of recovery, improved US farming methods will earn no return

If it's any consolation to British farmers, the crisis in farming - and the rush of farmers to leave it - is nearly as bad in the US. The blizzard yesterday sweeping from the plains of Kansas to the Dakotas will at least cover the piles of unwanted grain lying on the ground from one of the most bountiful harvests, and one of the most unprofitable, in American history.

For Gingrich's brigades, farm reform was pursued with ideological passion - and with political recklessness, given that it jeopardised the Republican drive to win rural voters, particularly in the South.

Industry's sharpest swings, such as the 1981 to 1986 rural debt crisis, triggered by the Soviet grain embargo, rising energy prices, and double-digit interest rates. Farmers hated it, not least for the heavy paperwork.

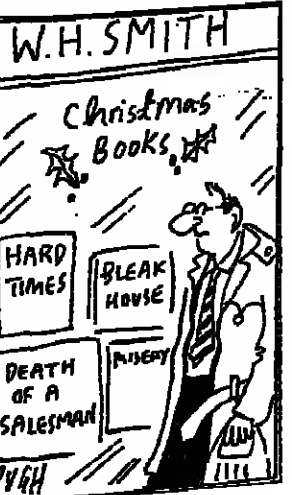
threatening a repeat of the 1980s' funding problems. The causes are not mysterious. A plunge in overseas demand heads the list.

ton's pledge to buy 2.5 million tons of wheat for Third World countries. The Budget bumps up the transition payments, acknowledging that they were calculated in times of plenty and set too low.

Stalled

A NARROW escape for BMW, which called a press conference at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall for 10.30 yesterday morning to discuss productivity improvements at Rover.

possibility of a German car company announcing huge job cuts at a British subsidiary during the two-minute Armistice Day silence - and only yards from the Cenotaph.



Eye-opener

WHEN Graham Palfrey-Smith decided to float his HW Group, a recruitment services specialist, on the stock market last year he kept detailed notes, now published in diary form in Real Business.

calculate it is costing him £80 a minute in fees. The strange absence of 'Mr Certain Key Person', a Close heavyweight who was there to win the business and who was all but invisible thereafter.

Tanked up

ANOTHER illusion shattered, and another victory for the spin doctors. Ken Clarke, our former Chancellor, is conducting a series of interviews for Bloomberg TV, including

some with his former tormentors in the media. The latest, broadcast today, is with John Humphrys and John Simpson of the BBC.

MARTIN WALLER



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Steps to transparency in small companies' reports

Communication of meaningful information on businesses will aid development of a healthy enterprise economy, says Isobel Sharp

The Chancellor, in his pre-Budget report last week, noted that the Government's policy is pro-small business. However, it is important for small businesses, as for large companies, that they communicate useful information in an understandable format to those legitimately interested, such as potential employees, customers and suppliers. Unlike, for example, the banks or the Inland Revenue, these groups do not have the economic or legal power to demand information tailored to their needs. But they need some information and assurance to help them to decide whether to go ahead or to look elsewhere.

However, the present regime in which small companies file returns and accounts with the Registrar of Companies, does not serve such users well. The accounts are in a code decipherable only by the trained accountant who can understand the jargon. The data on the public register may not tell them where the company is based. Usually the address of the company's lawyers or accountants is given as the registered office.

The weaknesses are well known. The company law review currently being undertaken by the Department of Trade and Industry is believed to be looking for changes in this area.

In the spirit of giving commentators something to shoot at, the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of Scotland has published its consultation paper, *Breaking the Code... A Better Reporting Framework for Small Companies*. Its aim is simple. What should be on public record should be easy to understand and cost-effective to produce and should provide information on the key questions — where is the company based, who runs it and how, and what are its present position, its general plans and its prospects?

The institute team responsible for the paper started with the proverbial clean sheet of paper. The plan was not to be reasonable, bearing in mind the popular Machiavellian comment that only unreasonable people make progress. However, the aim was to take a reasoned approach to what should be disclosed publicly.

Accordingly, the paper analyses the likely users of small company reports and their information needs and how these needs might be met. This analysis leads to a new form of report containing four elements — a statement of basic company information, a management statement, a statement of the company's objectives and its policies towards its shareholders and an independent financial commentary on the results, the financial position and the future prospects.

Perhaps only the first element is likely to be uncontroversial. The second, the management statement, may pro-



Isobel Sharp wants small firms' accounts made more useful

voke some interesting comments. What is proposed is that the directors should give information on how the company meets its various statutory obligations in respect of law and tax. For example, has it filed its tax returns by the due dates? Has it incurred significant fines for any breaches of law, such as legislation on health and safety at work? Have any of the directors been barred from acting as a director or declared bankrupt during any of the previous five years? Answers to these questions will give users factual in-

formation on how the directors run at least some aspects of the company's affairs. Whether the users are troubled by this information will, of course, be a matter of personal judgment.

The third element will set out the company's objectives and its main activities. If directors so wish, they may also set out their policies towards stakeholders, such as employees, customers and suppliers. The illustration of the proposals in the institute paper suggests that a possible policy towards suppliers may be to pay them on the agreed terms of trade.

The final element, the independent financial commentary, is a narrative report on the company's results and its general prospects. Probably prepared by the company's accounting advisers, it would seek to tell briefly the story of the year. Some basic financial information would be required, but not in the strait-jacket presently required.

An important ingredient in making information on small companies more generally available will be for the public register to be available through the internet. With more people having access to this either via home or business computers or via public libraries, they would be armed with useful knowledge.

In short, it will be a more transparent regime. There will be communication. It should help in continuing the development of a healthy enterprise economy in this country.

□ Isobel Sharp is a partner in Arthur Andersen.

□ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland report is available on its website at icas.org.uk.

UK plc enjoys the sweet success of Cadbury Code

People who argue that poor corporate governance never hurt anyone should take a look at the extraordinary events at Marks & Spencer. When Sir Adrian Cadbury proposed in his Cadbury Code that the post of chairman and chief executive should be split, there was great opposition, mostly from captains of industry who were completely unused to the concept of anyone questioning their judgment. This fancy corporate governance stuff, it was argued, would just get in the way. And furthermore it was none of the business of institutional shareholders, or Sir Adrian Cadbury and his committee, to question matters of internal governance or to suggest controls. Such moves would, it was argued, harm both profits and shareholder value.

Now we have a classic example of how unresolved matters of corporate governance and the crucial split of the roles of chairman and chief executive have eaten their way through the fabric of one of the greatest of this country's retailers.

"Shareholders can demand to know precisely how powers are divided," said Sir Adrian in his Gresham College lecture last May, "and continue probing until they are satisfied. In that sense a code recommendation can prove a sterner test in practice of a true separation of powers than a law to the same effect."

His opponents must wish that Sir Adrian would retire from the corporate governance field. And he did let it be known that his Gresham lecture was the point at which he was "quitting the governance stage". Yet back he came the other day to add his weight to the latest survey of trends in the world of chairmen and non-executive directors. This showed just how far everyone has travelled since the Cadbury Code first saw the light of day in 1991.

Take just one point that Sir Adrian thought significant, the question of who appoints non-executive directors has changed radically. "The selection for boards of directors is more purposefully and formally carried out," he said. "In 1991-92 only 2 per cent of quoted companies had nomination committees. Directors used to be selected by the chairman or by word of mouth".

Now, said the survey, 52 per cent of listed companies had a nomination committee. It seems odd, given the amount of reform applied to the management methods of companies over the past ten years, that the last part of the organisation to be reformed is the apex of all companies, the board of directors. "The selection of non-executive directors is coming into line with the professional approach of hiring managers," Sir Adrian said with some amusement.

When Sir Adrian was chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, he created a brief statement entitled "The Character of the Company". That faced opposition, too. "When I first suggested attempting to set down what the company stood for and then getting agreement to it, some board members were sceptical of its usefulness and said it would simply end up in a filing cabinet," he said in the Gresham lecture. "In the event, the degree to which the statement was valued and called on seemed to be a function of distance from the perceived centre of authority. It was the smaller business units and those furthest from the head office... that particularly felt that it filled a need."

It is that approach that has meant that the Cadbury Code has become so successful. There is no legal compulsion. But it forces boards of directors to examine how they work, ponder how efficient and effective they are, and to allow independent outsiders to suggest improvements. The aim was not a control system but simply a method of improving the quality of boards. It is a simple goal and it is being achieved not by forcing people into line, but by letting the forces in the world of business to reform and bring about their own change. It brings serious thought into the heart of a company. Sir Adrian ended his Gresham lecture with a quotation from Thoreau: "It is true enough said that a corporation has no conscience. But a corporation of conscientious men is a corporation with a conscience."

□ *Chairmen and Non-Executive Directors: Fees, Facts and Attitudes* is published by Egon Zehnder International and the Board for Chartered Accountants in Business. Inquiries to 0171-920 8440.



ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PwC out of the Abbey habit

SPARE a few crocodile tears for the Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Leviathan. Not only is a predatory Ernst & Young poaching as many of the newly merged number-one firm's senior staff as it can. Not only are there rumours of the loss of corporate finance teams on the European mainland. But now the merger has lost it a plum blue-chip financial services audit because the client, Abbey National, was "concerned about the resultant concentration of UK banking and life assurance audits". The merger gave PwC half of audits of the 20 financial services companies on the FTSE 100. As a result, some £4.3 million in fees is likely to shift to Deloitte & Touche, the

only one of the Big Five firms untouched by merger or internal strife over the past year. The fact that the Netherlands Antilles has decided to feature PwC on a set of stamps due out this week is thought to be a poor consolation.

Love me do

FURTHER evidence that society has it in for accountants and, of course, lawyers. Speaking at the annual London dinner of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord President of the Court of Session, provided chapter and verse. "Accountants and lawyers do have something in common," he suggested. "We are not loved." He offered evidence, saying: "Even vets do better. They have programmes about them on two television channels." He then

cited gruesome cases in which doctors have been revealed as murderers. "But everyone still loves doctors and nurses," he said with some disbelief. It was not immediately obvious what the assembled accountants were supposed to do to raise their professional liability profile. So they reverted to type, and the bar, instead.

VAT's life

DELOITTE & Touche reports that a last bastion of common sense has fallen. VAT has been introduced in Mongolia. And it has not taken the authorities long to cotton on to the strengths of such a tax. The initial rate of 10 per cent has already been cast aside and a swinging 13 per cent imposed. It hurts in the yurts, as the locals are wont to remark.

ROBERT BRUCE

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CHANGING TIMES

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Drug companies warned to hone R&D

By PAUL DURMAN

RETURNS from the pharmaceutical industry will fall sharply unless the leading companies improve the productivity of their research and development (R&D) effort, according to a new analysis by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Over the past few years, the total returns from the top 20 pharmaceutical companies have averaged 29 per cent a year. Despite all the attention focused on "blockbuster" drugs such as Zantac and Prozac, whose annual sales can be measured in billions, 90 per cent of all drugs earn annual revenues of less than \$180 million a year.

Worse still, said Dr Arlington, the period of exclusivity previously enjoyed by new medicines is being cut drastically as competition increases. Merck's new anti-arthritis drug is expected to be challenged within months by a similar product from Searle.

Dr Arlington said companies need to be much more ruthless in weeding out drugs with a poor chance of success. PwC said Glaxo Wellcome seems to have been successful in achieving a significant cut in the attrition rate of drugs entering pre-clinical trials.

Dr Arlington said that contract research organisations will increasingly come into competition with the drug companies as they seek to take on some of the development risks in return for a share in future profits.

Energy unveils expansion battle plan

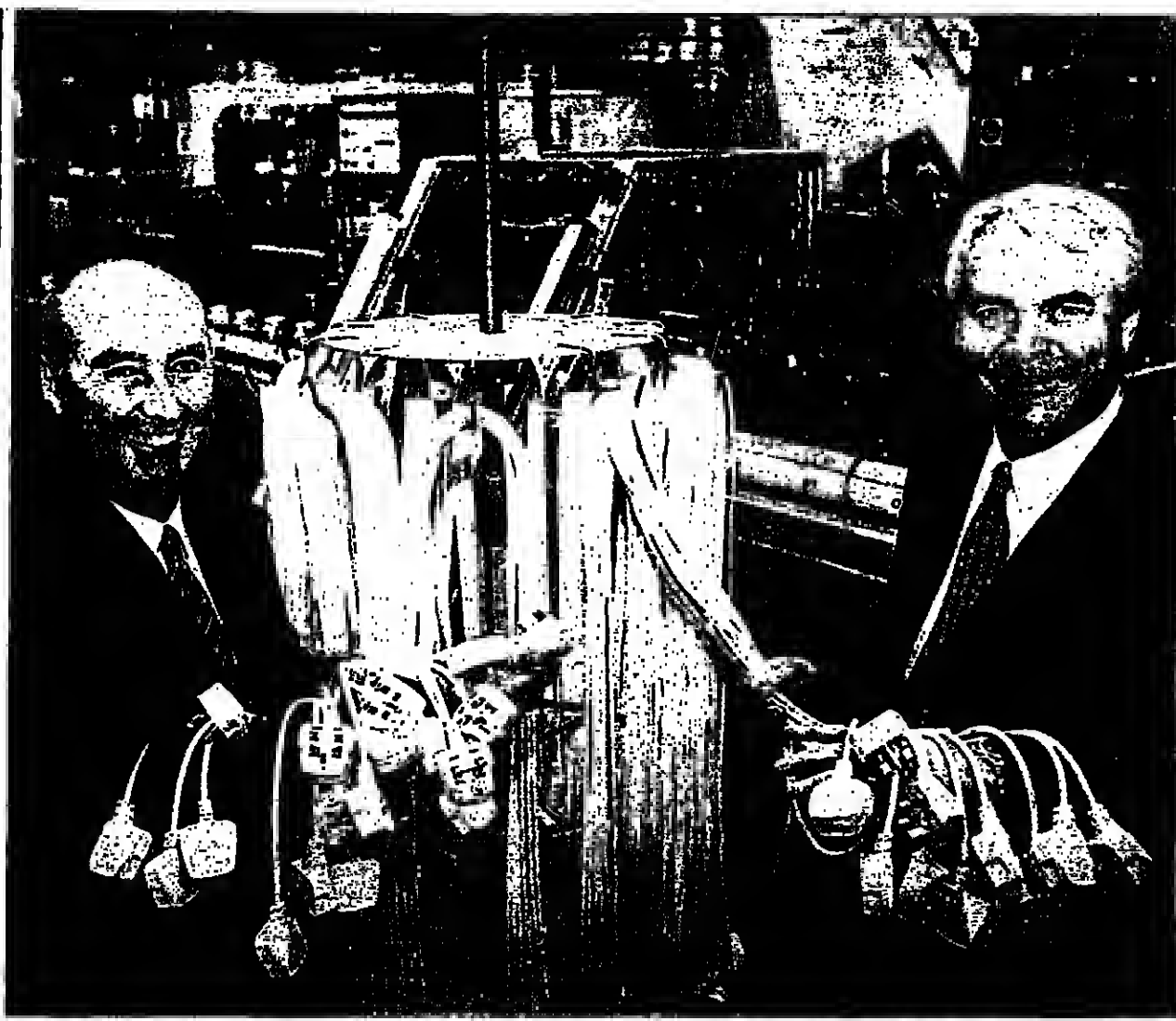
By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ENERGY yesterday declared its aim to be one of a handful of energy companies that will rule the UK's energy market in a few years. But the company refused to throw light on its battle with Electricité de France for London Electricity as expectations grow that both bidders are prepared to pay more than £2 billion.

British Energy is prevented from expanding into new gas generation because of the Government's de facto moratorium. However, Mr Hollins said the moratorium should end after the sale of the power stations - which were ordered to stimulate competition in price setting.

The generator is looking to buy the coal-fired power stations being sold by PowerGen and National Power. But Mr Hollins accused the Government of being "terribly opaque" over the suitability of bidders for the coal stations.

Pre-tax profits climbed from £4 million to £46 million. The interim dividend was raised 8 per cent to 5.3p. Earnings per share before exceptional were 4.5p compared with 0.4p.



Kenneth Hooper, Voilex finance director, left, and Dominick Molloy, chief executive, say revenues are likely to stay flat

Voilex hit by pricing pressure

By ADAM JONES

VOILEX, the cables group, gave warning yesterday that its power cord operation is being affected by increased price competition.

Although it sold more power cords in the first half of 1998, Voilex said revenues for this product range were flat because of pricing pressure that is expected to continue in the second half.

Overall, the group reported interim profits before tax of £7.9 million, up from £7.3 million. Sales rose 8.4 per cent to £101.8 million.

Voilex said that this part of the business continued to make "excellent progress". It also said it was poised to make acquisitions in Brazil and India.

PPL share issue aims for £20.4m

By PAUL DURMAN

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the firm seeking to produce medicines from the milk of genetically modified sheep, has been forced to raise £20.4 million through a cut-price share issue to avoid being squeezed by potential marketing partners for its products.

Dome making builders scarce says McCarthy

By FRASER NELSON

MCCARTHY & STONE has complained that it is running short of builders because too many are working on the Millennium Dome and other similar projects across the country.



Thorne: "impact on costs"

Distributor on target for Japan

By ADAM JONES

ELECTROCOMPONENTS is to go ahead with plans to break into the Japanese market next March despite the regional financial malaise.

Asian troubles cost Bayer £179m in revenue

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Asian crisis cost Bayer, the German chemicals and pharmaceutical group, DM500 million (about £179 million) in sales in the third quarter, the company announced yesterday.

Bayer's North American business suffered a fall in revenues in dollar terms, with profits down DM600 million because of a shortfall in plasma production and the costs of restructuring.

Business Roundup

Fenner spells out challenges ahead

FENNER, the engineering group, has announced a "satisfactory trading result" for the year to August 31, but gave warning that the poor economic outlook meant maintaining profit levels would be "challenging".

Commerzbank slips

COMMERZBANK, Germany's fifth-largest bank, needed to sell two blocks of shares - one in Winterthur, the Swiss insurer, another in BCI, the Italian bank - to ensure its net profits rose in the first nine months of this year.

Prism Leisure offer

PRISM LEISURE, the wholesaler of computer games, cassettes, compact discs and videos, said it is being bought by its own management with a cash offer of 75p a share.

Holmes Place placing

HOLMES PLACE, which owns and operates health clubs, yesterday said it is raising £6.2 million through placing 3.37 million new ordinary shares at 185p a share.

Drings sold to ARC

DRINGS, the stonemason that was forced to call in receivers and delist its shares from the Alternative Investment Market, has been sold to ARC, the supplier of building materials.

Burtonwood sales up

BURTONWOOD BREWERY yesterday said that a keggering contract obtained during the World Cup had offset the adverse effects of the poor summer, resulting in increased sales and profits for the six months to September 26.

Kvaerner in Peru deal

KVAERNER'S E&C division has signed a letter of intent for a large project valued at \$335 million (£303 million) from Southern Peru Ltd for modernisation of facilities at its copper smelter in Ilo, Peru.

Exports lift Cranswick

CRANSWICK, the pet, agribusiness and food group, yesterday said a focus on exports helped lift half-yearly profits. The company reported pre-tax profit up 15 per cent at £2.4 million for the six months to September 30.

Burnden plans hotel

BURNDEN Leisure, the owners of Bolton Wanderers Football Club, yesterday revealed plans to build a 110-bed hotel within its 25,000-seat Reebok Stadium that opened earlier this year.

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THEATRE
Royal love
lives tenderly
spoofed
PAGE 40

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC
Kurt Masur
signs up
for London
PAGE 41



Father of all monsters

FILM: James Whale, the British director who made *Frankenstein*, lives again on screen, as James Mottram discovers

From computer-generated ants to dual versions of *An Ideal Husband*, screen ideas seem to come in pairs these days. The latest fad is James Whale, the Midlands-born father of the horror genre, best known for directing the original *Frankenstein* and his sequel, *Bride of Frankenstein*. With one film due out in the United States this month, and another in development, a long-overdue reappraisal of Whale is on its way.

‘He made a point of never taking himself seriously’

“People don’t know much about Whale, but they know he died under mysterious circumstances — and it’s not true.” After Whale was found dead in his swimming pool, misinformation grew from the secrecy surrounding his demise — secrecy manufactured by his lover David Lewis in an effort to protect Whale’s reputation. Only years later was it revealed that the director had in fact committed suicide.



James Whale (second from right) on the set of his 1931 film *Frankenstein*, with Boris Karloff, Phyllis Brooks and cameraman John Mescall

A rival film, based on James Curtis’s recent biography *James Whale: A New World of Gods and Monsters*, is currently under development with the team that produced *Carrington*, the 1995 Lytton Strachey biopic. More emphasis is promised on Whale’s creative years, leading up to *The Road Back*, his disastrously recut follow-up to *All Quiet on the Western Front* that initiated his exit from Hollywood.

Curtis, a businessman from California who rewrote his work from scratch after producing a thinner account of Whale’s life in 1982, has already started on the publicity trail, deriding Condon’s film for its inaccuracies. “Whale, to my knowledge, never approached, or had any interest in, straight men. He sought the company of other gay men. He was a very reserved man, very dignified.”

Condon defends his portrayal of Whale. “I thought there was a chance to make a film about Whale, in the style of him — to inject a lot of Whale into it. Curtis Harrington, a director friend of mine, and a writer, Gavin Lambert, both knew Whale very well in that period. They were invaluable. I talked to them for hours about Whale’s state of mind and it did seem to be like that. The monsters were in his suicide note —

I read it.” Captured in Flanders in 1917, Whale spent time at Holzminden POW camp in Brunswick — the source of the supposed dentons of the film. With Condon’s film also opening the Birmingham International Film and Television Festival — with retrospective screenings programmed of Whale’s monster films — interest in Dudley’s forgotten son is growing. As the festival director Sarah McKenzie notes, Condon’s film “will be successful in raising public awareness of Whale”. Universal Studios, which has recently revamped four old prints of Whale’s films for American release, is currently planning an \$80 million remake of *Frankenstein*, with computer technology replacing an actor for the monster.

Monk rescues lounge wizard

With 15 albums to his name, and plenty of critical acclaim heaped on his most recent solo recording, which radically reinterprets the music of Thelonious Monk, Fred Hersch is one of New York’s more innovative pianists.

Rooted in the jazz tradition through his work with Stan Getz, Joe Henderson and Art Farmer, Hersch and his trio have taken collective improvisation into new territory. His particular forte, both as a soloist and with the trio, is deconstructing standards into gritty little phrases that are reassembled into a ragged patchwork quilt, where the original form is still discernible through the spiky remnants of its contours.

When he slipped almost unnoticed into Britain last year, it was this aspect of his work that dominated his South Bank recital. This year, he is back for his first solo tour of this country.

This promised plenty, not least because Hersch’s exploratory playing reaches new heights in a duo album released this week with guitarist Bill Frisell called *Songs We Know* released by Nonesuch Records.

Unfortunately for his audience...

● *Gods and Monsters* is at the Odeon West End on Sunday and Monday (0171-928 3232), part of the London Film Festival, and opens the Birmingham International Film and Television Festival (0121 212 0999) next Wednesday. *James Whale: A New World of Gods and Monsters* is available from Faber and Faber, priced £14.99

once at the Holywell Music Room, however, there was all too little of the exploratory Hersch on show, and far too much of the slushy cocktail piano that surfaced a year or two back in his recorded tributes to the work of Billy Strayhorn and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

As a consequence, several standards were rushed through in a perfunctory way, the melody of *All the Things You Are* being thrown in as an afterthought to some rhapsodic cavorting, and the unlikely choice of *After You’ve Gone* demonstrating that Hersch has far to go before he is able to match the effortless swing of the likes of Teddy Wilson or Art Tatum.

Hersch’s own compositions fared better, a captivating *Heart Song* mixing energetic street rhythms with a consistent sense of the double pulse of heart valves, and the Strayhorn-influenced *Departed* creating a sense of space for its clear ballad melody.

At his best, Hersch is a sensitive and compelling ballad player, as he proved in a subtle rendition of *Body and Soul*, but too often he seemed seized by the impulse to graft on preposterous mannerisms that owe more to Liberace than the jazz tradition.

Fortunately, the angular, craggy compositions of Monk are built to withstand such things, and when playing them, Hersch moved up a gear or two. *Light Blue* and *Fatmanica* contrasted a softness of attack in the former with a brittle toughness in the latter, while his treatment of *In Walked Bud* had the crystalline phrasing and disjointed melody of a fragmented ostinato that listeners in his recorded oeuvre have come to expect from Hersch at his very best.

DEBRA CRAINE ALYN SHIPTON

Traditionally, the Levellers are one of those bands music journalists love to hate. It’s not just the unholy trinity of dreadlocks, dungarees and didgeridoo that makes them *enfant terrible* in the eyes of the press, it’s the fact that, despite the unfavourable nodules, their fanbase continues to swell and one can reasonably expect

Raggle, taggle gypsies aweigh



The Levellers gave a mainly low-key performance in Dublin at the start of their 30-date pre-Christmas tour

The band themselves, with the exception of Jeremy Cunningham, their Medusa-haired bassist, look just as likely to be stacking shelves at Tesco as camping out at Stonehenge, although the predominantly black-clad quintet was augmented by a demonic didgeridoo player during *This Garden*, who hurtled himself around the stage in white tights, a black dress and horror-flick face paint.

before and there was an inescapable feeling that, on the first night of their 30-date pre-Christmas tour, Mark Chadwick et al had their minds on the hard slog ahead rather than the job in hand.

The Levellers’ fusion of folk and pub rock follows on from the likes of 1980s icons the Waterboys and the Pogues, albeit minus the Dylan-esque inflections of the former and the doomed romanticism of the latter. What we get is a good deal more prosaic, with anthemic singalongs such as *Fifteen Years* and their calling card, *One Way*, sounding like Oasis with fiddles.

It’s hard to feel unmoved by the passionate reception these old favourites were afforded, but it’s just as hard to get excited by much of what came in between, which sounded lumpen and repetitive, although the band weren’t helped by a muddy sound mix (unusual for the Olympia, which generally has note-perfect acoustics).

Even when they tried to bring their act into the 1990s with the beat-heavy new single, *Boxos*, it sounded as awkward an embrace of dance culture as U2’s *Pop* fumble.

NICK KELLY



Rambert’s Conor O’Brien and Simon Cooper in Kemp and Bruce’s 1977 *Cruel Garden*

Violence and grace

Lindsay Kemp and Christopher Bruce’s 1977 ballet was one of the biggest hits British dance had ever seen. A theatrical hallucination inspired by the life and work of the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, *Cruel Garden* was the perfect high art companion to the aesthetic extravagance of 1970s popular culture.

Now, 20 years later, Rambert Dance Company has revived it. The changing sensibilities of the decades have taken their toll — audiences today may find the work slow and disorienting — but there is no diminution in the force of its imagery or the eloquence of its choreography. And best of all is what the ballet does for Rambert, giving the dancers juicy dramatic roles that bring out the heat of emotion in their dancing.

Cruel Garden bears the unmistakable Kemp stamp: not a biography of Lorca but a borrowing of the incidents and images in the poet’s life, woven with dream-like logic into a universal theme. Lorca is not just one homosexual poet struggling to survive in a hostile Fascist society, he is an artist isolated from the world by their own urgent creativity.

DANCE Cruel Garden Sadler’s Wells

mons. Kemp has a long attention span as a director and his highly internalised focus dulls the sharp edges of his lavish Surrealist vision. Yet the heavy sexual and religious overlay he brings to his story is still as pungent as ever.

Bruce’s contribution is the dancing, and one would like more of it. The choreography is shamelessly graceful at times, in shocking contrast to the obscenity of the stylised violence. Elsewhere, anguished shapes give form to the grief and desperation of a life informed by brutality, while broken lines of movement evoke the scars of physical pain. And nowhere is Bruce’s language more powerful than in his writing for the Bull, a highly erotic figure whose sexual lure carries the constant promise of destruction.

As the Bull, Simon Cooper, clad in leather bondage gear, is startling and disturbing, an intensely seductive presence dominating Ralph Koltra’s blood-splattered bullfight. Conor O’Brien has a tougher time as the Priest, never sure (be-

cause the choreography isn’t there to tell him) whether he is gay victim, persecuted artist or Christ reborn. No such problems for John Chesworth’s Inquisitor, though, a mean, majestic figure never far from the heart of Lorca’s nightmares. Paul Hoskins conducts the London Musicians through the moody fluctuations of Carlos Miranda’s feverish score.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998
NEW MOVIES: Ge...
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Now Showing

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown on a bad trip with Terry Gilliam, Johnny Depp and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas



Even the king of gonzo has to get away from it all sometimes: Johnny Depp, as Raoul Duke, drink-and-drug-drenched alter ego of Hunter S. Thompson, is at one with the desert in Terry Gilliam's dire Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

And now for something completely pointless

The most startling spectacle of the week has been Michael Redgrave impeccably dressed in an airmail envelope. There he stood in The Importance of Being Earnest...

ing contest. For company he has his corpulent attorney Dr Gonzo (Benicio Del Toro) and a trunkful of mind-bending substances. Already tripping on arrival in Las Vegas, they wreak havoc on two hotel rooms and numerous citizens, then leave. The end.

The point? Thompson at least had one. Back in 1971 he was painting a warning picture of an age when the American Dream was fast becoming a nightmare. But Gilliam's point gets lost in the onslaught of distorted camerawork, wobbly hotel floors, special effects monsters and heads hung over toilet bowls. Occasionally a hotel TV will catch some topical event from the news archives; but there is never enough to anchor the frenzy in a time and place, and make clear any thoughts about the differences between then and now.

Performers in general have as much individual room to manoeuvre as the cut-out figures in Gilliam's Monty Python animations. Many celebrities in small parts pass by without making any impact (Christina Ricci's teenager, obsessively painting portraits of Barbara Streisand, is an exception). Depp, however, you cannot help noticing. He wears a safari hat, aviator specs, shaved head and a cigarette holder. He never stands still.

nor upright. Speech emerges in strangled bursts. The characterisation may catch the eccentric Thompson style, but two hours played on one note prove very wearying. As his sidekick, Del Toro does more vomiting than acting.

Vomiting occurs in Henry Fool too, although otherwise no similarities can be drawn. This is a Hal Hartley movie after all; words and images emerge polished and poised, no matter how quick the dislocations in mood. Yet not everything is the same as usual. There is a new note of whimsy, and a wider embrace of American life. There is even a character whose lips stay buoned: one Simon Grim, garbage collector in New Jersey, whose dysfunctional family forms the film's background.

Still, the title character talks and talks, and worms his way into Grim's life as boarder, mentor and agent provocateur. A man of mystery with an eager appetite for sex and booze, Fool claims to be writing a confessional book that will set the world's tongues wagging. But it is Grim who achieves literary success with an epic scatological poem.

The narrative line is stretched thin over two-and-a-quarter hours, although there are usually enough diversions and sly comments about society's values to keep us happy.

Thomas Jay Ryan, a stage actor, is compelling as the vagabond stranger. The liberation of James Urbaniak's repressed drudge brings its own pleasures, as does Parker Posey's oversexed sister. An odd mixture of whimsical fable and blue-collar realism, Henry Fool may not be perfect, but you can feel this mannered director stretching his legs and trying for fresh air.

Only an incurable optimist would look for freshness in The Odd Couple II (director, Howard Deutch). Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon, the stars of the first film 30 years ago, have reached the combined age of 151, but find it difficult to accept that the time for laurel-resting is here. So once again the prissy Felix and the sloppy Oscar are placed in enforced proximity as they travel to their offspring's wedding. The actors' skill and a few minor jokes in Neil Simon's script help to ease the passage of this viewing experience, but the result is still an unnecessary film aimed at people who no longer go to the cinema.

Zing is also lacking in Hope Floats, a vehicle for Sandra Bullock. Previous roles have established her sympathetic, girl-next-door appeal, but it is uphill work

caring for her present character, one Birdee Pruitt, who buries herself in her home town in Texas after the collapse of her marriage. Forest Whitaker directs this saccharine comedy-drama with the same bludgeoning touch that he lavished on Waiting to Exhale. If the images don't tell you when to cry, the soundtrack will: even Chaplin's musical chestnut, Smile, is heard up. But there is no real emotion. Nor tension: once Harry Connick Jr's hunk is plonked in Bullock's path, the plot is already over.

There is no time for thumb-busidling in Blade: we are too busy dodging the silver bullets and garlic essence hurled at the baddies by Wesley Snipes, vampire hunter extraordinary. His character stems from the pages of Marvel Comics, although the material's outlines have been clouded by a confusion of moods and styles: gory horror, straightforward action, kickboxing thrills, kinky spectacle. Snipes enjoys his outrageous heroics and, for a while, so do we, until the film's disarray and repetition cause problems. The reckless director is British, Stephen Norrington, last responsible for the perfectly horrible Death Machine.

Battered to bits by blood and clichés, you may well be feeling like a little foreign refinement. But here,

as elsewhere in this crowded week, you must tread carefully. Left Luggage, for instance, will give scant pleasure unless you have a weakness for superficial European dramas about the Holocaust legacy, awkwardly shot in English, Actor Jeron Krabbé directs; Laura Fraser, miscast and out of her depth, stars as a liberated Jewish woman drawn towards an Orthodox Hassidic family in Antwerp in the 1970s.

Youssef Chahine's historical epic Destiny, an attack on Islamic fundamentalism peppered with the odd song and dance, is bold and entertaining, but unlikely to appeal beyond interested observers of Egyptian cinema.

Perhaps Norway and Insomnia, a first feature from director Erik Skjoldbjærg, is the best bet. The script for this cop thriller may be unnecessarily complicated, but the psychological musings and dour atmosphere make for a distinctive flavour. Siellan Skarsgård, from Breaking the Waves, plays a homicide cop with frayed nerves called in to solve a teenage girl's murder.

Fire is also worth your attention. This hails from India, via Canada, where the director, Deepa Mehta, is based. A New Delhi household is shaken by the growing friendship between two frustrated women, one infertile (Shabana Azmi), the

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas Empire, 18, 118 mins Indigestible version of Hunter S. Thompson's novel

Henry Fool Curzon Soho, 18, 137 mins Whimsical epic from Hal Hartley

The Odd Couple II Plaza, 15, 97 mins Is this film really necessary?

Hope Floats ABC Shaftesbury Ave PG, 114 mins And interest sinks

Blade Warner West End, 18, 120 mins Meet Wesley Snipes, vampire hunter extraordinary

Left Luggage Curzon Mayfair PG, 93 mins Unconvincing Jewish drama

Destiny ICA Cinema, 135 mins Entertaining Egyptian epic

Insomnia Metro, 15, 97 mins Frayed nerves and Norwegian gloom

Fire Curzon Soho, 15, 104 mins Indian domestic drama finally ignites

other newly married (Nandita Das). To Western eyes, some of the issues raised may seem old news, but when the women's feelings ignite, so does the film.

DEEP IMPACT

CIC, 12, 1998 A COMET seven miles long and bulkier than Mount Everest is hurtling towards planet Earth. So the film sends up Robert Duvall and a rocketful of warheads to try to deflect its course. Tea Leoni is the young female lead, a TV reporter who gets her big break covering the story. And Elijah Wood is on board to keep the youngsters engaged, a high school astronomy buff hit by puppy love just as the world is about to end. This is a big, silly movie trying too hard to be serious: a mistake Armageddon did not make.

KUNDUN Buena Vista, 12, 1998 FORGET about mean streets

Size isn't everything

and wiseguys. Scorsese's masterful and beautiful film unfolds in non-violent Tibet, where we follow the early life of the Dalai Lama, leading up to his postwar flight to preserve his country's independence in the face of Communist China.

Scorsese directs as though this were a silent film; the meaning is conveyed in the images, backed up by Philip Glass's hypnotic score. As the adult Dalai Lama, Tenzin Thubob Tsarong heads a cast dominated by exiled Tibetans; the splendid scenery is mostly in Morocco. A rental release.

NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

MONTY PYTHON'S FLEGGED ZIRKUS Guerilla Films, 15 WHAT on earth is Michael Palin doing singing the lumberjack song in German, with a back-up chorus of the Austrian border police? He's making a Python programme for German TV, of course, back in 1971. This video, a necessary purchase for all Python fans, also includes a second programme the team made in Germany the following year, this time in

English. Familiar material is mixed with the unfamiliar. Most of it is very funny.

SPICEWORLD THE MOVIE SPECIAL EDITION PolyGram, PG, 1997 THE specialness of this edition rests in the extra 45-minute video packaged along with the feature film. The five girls are interviewed during production and tell us the breathtaking news that making the film is enormous fun. The trailer is included, plus one song, Mama, cut from the final print. For Spice maniacs, it could be enough.

UGETSU MONOGATARI

BFI, PG, 1953 FEW directors ever moved their camera with as much magic as Kenji Mizoguchi, and this was one of the films that first alerted the West to his existence. The setting is Japan in the 16th century. Rival warriors ravage the land. Two peasant potters abandon their wives to pursue their dreams. One wants to become a samurai warrior; the other succumbs to a beautiful lady ultimately revealed as a ghost. The stories hail from an 18th-century collection called Tales of a Pale and Silvery Moon after the Rain, a title that captures much of the film's poetic beauty.

GEOFF BROWN

'Very unpleasant'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: I was expecting something weird from director and former Monty Python star Terry Gilliam, but not this weird. It is all totally incomprehensible. Carl Clark, 19: I feared it would never end. I loathed it. There was absolutely no story line. Charlotte Dailey, 19: A very unpleasant movie in which gruesome image follows gruesome image. Not my cup of tea at all. Alison Juliard, 20: This is the

sort of work a young film student might produce, not an experienced director in his fifties.

HENRY FOOL Leslie: This is not perfect by a long chalk, but at least it was trying something a little different. Carl: The cast are very good, particularly Parker Posey. Easily the best film released this week. Charlotte: A slow, thoughtful, witty film. A surprisingly refreshing piece of cinema. Alison: Writer/director Hal Hartley has given us a complex movie that kept my attention throughout. Good acting from everyone.

SNAP VERDICT

HOPE FLOATS Leslie: Don't bank on a masterpiece and you'll have a nice time. Carl: An incredibly sickly sweet experience and not one I'll repeat in a hurry. Charlotte: Too slushy for words. You can't knock Sandra Bullock, though. She's as fantastic as ever. Alison: I think Bullock keeps getting better and better. Unfortunately, her script choice is getting worse and worse.

Advertisement for the film 'My name is Joe' directed by Ken Loach. It features a large image of Peter Dinklage and several quotes from critics: 'EXCEPTIONAL', 'MAGNIFICENT', 'SUPERB...not only a strong contender for best British film of the year, but one of Loach's very finest movies', 'All other British cinema this year just seems like candyfloss', 'EXCELLENT...passionate, and magnificently acted'. It also includes the text 'EVERYBODY LOVES JOE!' and 'and across the country Nov 20'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'AY NOVEMBER 12 1998', 'Monk rescues lounge wizard', 'W', 'Fred Hersh', 'ce', 'LUGGAGE'.

LISTINGS
Bollywood in London

RECOMMENDED TODAY
Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hergle
LONDON
SOUTH BANK SELECTION: Tonight in the Festival Hall (7.30pm) the noted soprano Joan Rodgers and tenor Anthony Rolfe-Johnson, join the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Richard Hickox in a concert of English music inspired by memory and loss in the Queen Elizabeth Hall (7.45pm) The Arts London Jazz Festival continues with a gig by the improviser Terence Blanchard and his New Orleans band, South Bank (0171-960 4242). (S)

NEW WEST END SHOWS
Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
HOUSE FULL, returns only (S) Some seats available (S) Seats at all prices
GURDING STARS: Jonathan Harvey's Hilsborough stadium play, premiered in Liverpool, comes to the National, Cottesloe (0171-452 3000). (S)
CRIMES OF THE HEART: Amanda Bonar plays one of the three women in Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning family drama, revived by David Gilmour, King's Head, N1 (0171-226 1816). (S)
HALF MOON: Set in a Fizzies, a well-timed, topical comedy, directed by Stephen D. O'Keefe at the Southwark Playhouse (0171-620 3494). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.
MUCH ADO ABOUT EVERYTHING: Jackie Mason's new one-man show brings a sharp eye and a cutting tongue to the current scene. Playhouse (0171-839 4401). (S)
RURAL: Rare revival of Kenal Capka's futuristic play that gave the world "robot" to the world.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE
Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies
NEW RELEASES
ANTZ (PG): Neurotic ant finds himself a real hero. Incredible computer-generated animation, matched to the voices of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone and Sylvester Stallone.
DIRTY TOWN (15): High-school teenagers develop a love affair in a town of violence. Impassioned and punchy American independent film, with Lily Taylor.
MY NAME IS JOE (15): Reformed Glasgow alcoholic begins an awkward romance with a beautiful worker. Impassioned and punchy American independent film, with Lily Taylor.
THE PLAYERS CLUB (15): Lively but challenged tale of a single mother who gets in trouble working as a stripper. With Lisa Ray; written and directed by rapper-turned-director Ice Cube.
SNAKE EYES (15): Nicolas Cage's comic homicide cop is faced with a political assassination. Awarded thriller with lots of technical nuzzle-dazzle from director Brian De Palma.
CURRENT
THE EXORCIST (15): The Devil takes possession of 14-year-old Linda Blair.

ARTS

THEATRE
Gentle royal satire



Patrick Barlow and John Ramm. aka the National Theatre of Brent, turn their unmalicious wit on the Royal Family for their latest extravaganza

The royal barmy army

It is ridiculous! So cries the Queen when she hears of the Princess of Wales's complaints. How could the Royal Family possibly drive anybody barmy, she asks? The trouble is that she has been transformed into a nerdish man in a toupée who perches above a lump of pumice called the Stone of Scone, and emphasises her indignation by slapping her own face with a turquoise plastic handbag. As an advertisement for the sanity of the House of Windsor, or the House of Fraser as it is sometimes renamed here, it is on a par with flying a straitjacket from the flagpole on Buckingham Palace.

These are not easy times for the Royal Family. They are particularly irksome for the Queen and the Prince of Wales. But I do not think loyalists should let themselves be offended by the pinpricks that are currently being aimed in the rough direction of the Palace from the stage of the Comedy. Love Upon the Throne is another of the National Theatre of Brent's exercises in suburban mock-heroic, and as lacking in binnerness as its Greatest Story Ever Told, its Compleat Works of Shakespeare, and its Zulu! and Charge of the Light Brigade. If God, the Bard and the British Empire can take it, so surely, can the current monarchy.

Love Upon the Throne is a comedy of two men only: an actor-manager called Desmond Olivier Dingle (Patrick Barlow), who looks and sounds like a pompous bank manager, and Raymond Box (John Ramm), who might be a clerk just stumbled off the S17 from Erith. Dingle plays Charles, Duke of Cornwall and Mull of Kintyre, a decent type who wants to talk philosophy. Ramm is Di, who runs neurotically riot while the Queen is delivering her Christmas message to the nation. The piece ends, as life sadly didn't, with their relative

If the evidence of their playwrights can be trusted, the white folks of the Deep South are clambering along their own odd branch of the evolutionary tree. They do things differently down there, and life's obstacles are differently difficult. Consider the three sisters in Beth Henley's 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winner. There is Lenny, sense of femininity diminished along with her shrivelled ovary, whose horse Billy-boy is struck dead by lightning the night before the play begins. There is wayward Meg, who fled to Los Angeles after darning her boyfriend to outface a hurricane in Biloxi, as a result of which he will be limping for life. Doll-faced Babe is in deep trouble after shooting her horrible husband in the stomach and then taking time to make lemonade before summoning medical help.

Different strokes in another country
sudden exit from Lenny's kitchen when news comes that her little boys have been eating paint. And way back behind all these modern troubles is the awkward fall-out from the suicide of Momma ("She had a bad day"), whose sentimental decision to hang the ole yellow cat alongside her guaranteed her death nationwide coverage. Herself Mississippi-born, Henley knows how easily these absurd disas-

ters could tip sideways into bathos, and there are moments when David Gilmore's production cannot prevent us feeling that, compared with most human beings, this lot are still swinging their tails. But the author's skill, in this her first full-length play, is to win us over to their side, so that we are soon keen for Meg to recover her singing voice, for Lenny to find happiness through the lonely hearts ads, and for Babe's sweet law-

Even Cousin Chick has to make a

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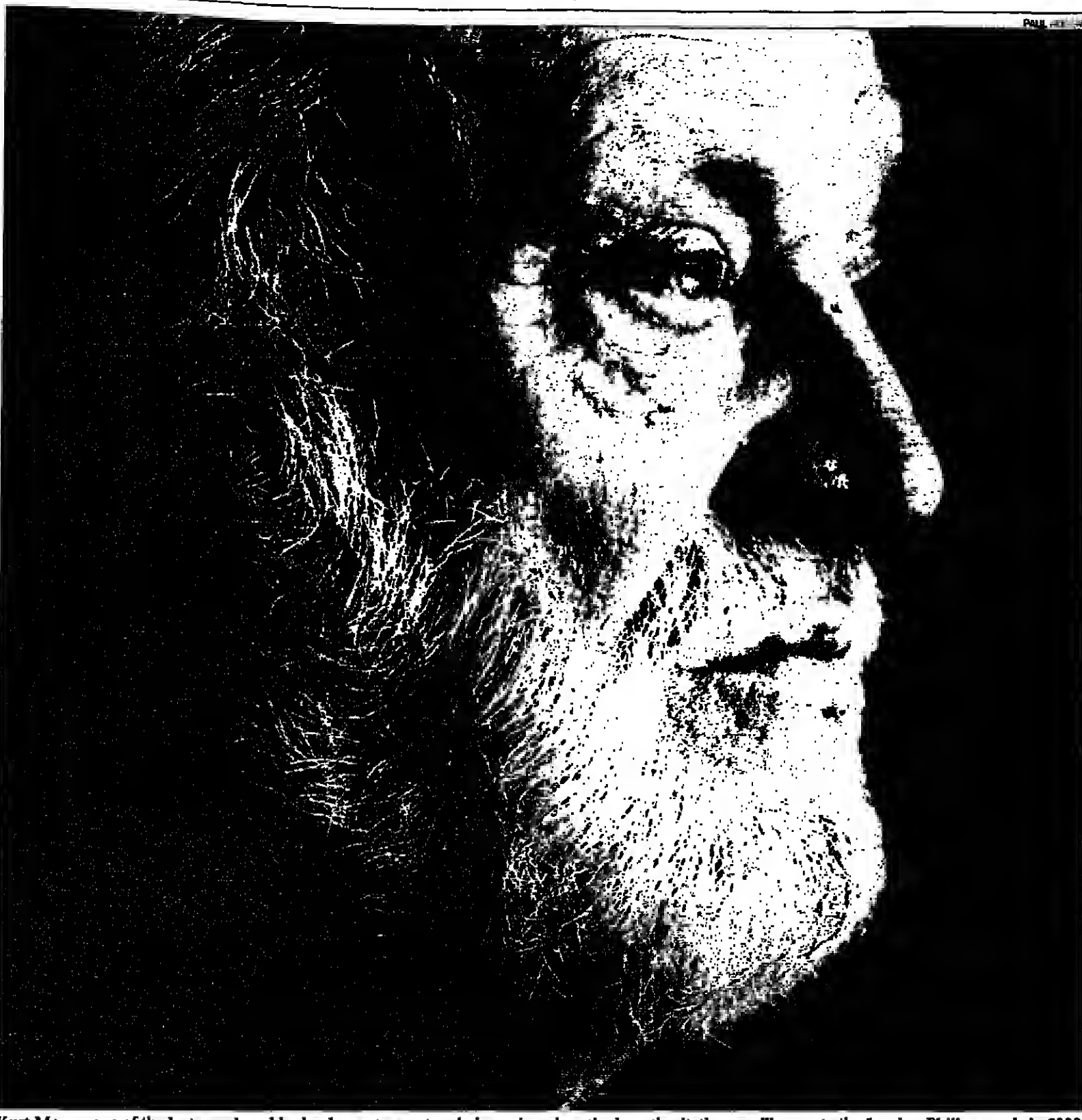
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MUSIC Kurt Masur interviewed

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Kurt Masur, one of the last genuine old-school maestros — tough, imposing, dauntingly authoritative — will come to the London Philharmonic in 2000

Masur coup lifts London orchestra

Good news does sometimes come out of the blue. Today the London Philharmonic Orchestra announces that, after more than two years without any principal conductor at all, it has acquired one of the world's finest. Kurt Masur, currently music director of the New York Philharmonic, has signed a five-year contract to become the London Philharmonic's principal conductor from September 2000. His New York contract expires in 2002.

The London Philharmonic has lured the maestro of New York to be its new chief conductor. Richard Morrison reports

But Masur also has a personal reason to say yes to the LPO: his friendship with Tennstedt, and an intense desire to carry on Tennstedt's work with the orchestra he loved. "Conducting the memorial concert for Klaus made me realise what a bond tied us together. I knew him for 49 years. We met in 1948, when he was still a violinist, leading the orchestra in the little Halle theatre where I conducted."

One thing that surprised New Yorkers was the vigour with which Masur embraced not only contemporary music, but also an expansive "outreach" programme. That, says Masur, will be the way forward in London too. "All over the world I see a shocking change: politicians aren't committed to the future of the arts, and middle-class values are falling away. So institutions like orchestras must educate the young."

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: The first batch of 65 historic BBC sound archive recordings is released

COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

BBC LEGENDS/IMG ARTISTS Various prices (see text) *** THE saga of the liberation of historic performances from the BBC Sound Archives has been a protracted one, punctuated by contractual and legal disputes, but here at last is the first instalment of a major release of 65 important recordings. The result of a collaboration between BBC Music and IMG Artists, the series includes some absolute gems from the period 1938 to 1979, involving top artists in performances never before officially released.

with the Halle Orchestra that the Mahler scholar Deryck Cooke raved one of the finest he had ever heard. Another historic occasion captured here is the visit of the Leningrad Philharmonic under the legendary Evgeny Mravinsky in September 1960. Their Festival Hall concert included the London premiere of Shostakovich's Symphony No 8 (BBC 4002-2 £12.99), and an extraordinary performance it is too. The wind and brass playing is execrable, but the strings make amends, and remarkable intensity is generated overall, with an ending of utter tranquillity. A bonus CD offers vigorous but always stylish Mozart playing.

OPERA

MARCELLO ALVAREZ Bel canto Welsh National Opera Orchestra/Rizzi Sony SK 60721 *** £15.99 SONY has been quick to snap up Marcello Alvarez, the latest tenor meteor to soar into the operatic sky. By good fortune his first recital disc arrives in the month that he makes his Met debut as Alfredo in Traviata, replacing Roberto Alagna who left the house together with Gheorghiu following a row with the management and the director Franco Zeffirelli.

VOCAL

KANTATE German Baroque Cantatas Andreas Scholl Harmonia mundi HMC 901651 *** £15.99 THE beginning of the 17th century, and Germany's love-affair with the South had begun. The infatuation of the North with the sturdy bass tread, the sensuous song and the instrumental delights of Italy was to lead to Bach's cantatas, and

Dramatic shortfall redeemed by the tunes

It is not hard to make the case for King Arthur being Purcell's finest opera, even if, technically, it belongs to the genre of "semi-opera". And even if, as in this account by the Gabrieli Consort and Players, the performance is a little underwhelming: surely the composer left no score of greater beauty and wit, or variety of instrumentation?

CONCERTS

Creesh and his group London has been spoilt in recent years by peerless performances of the work by William Christie and Les Arts Florissants — first in a Covent Garden staging by Graham Vick, then in a Barbican semi-staging with Jeremy Sams's lively narration. Something like that narration would have helped in this concert performance, where even King Arthur himself, an actor in this Purcell "musical", disappeared. The programme note attempted to justify such a concert presentation, but one shouldn't believe everything one reads in programme notes.

Not surprisingly, this King Arthur was a little short on dramatic life. For the most part it had all the respectability of an oratorio, though there were moments, such as the final act's peasant revelry, when everyone let their hair down. Despite his feeling for the score, McCreesh's interpretation often came across too placidly, and it did not help that some singers lacked theatrical feeling. But there were good, incisive performances from the basses Peter Harvey and Neal Davies, and the ladies were excellent: Mhairi Lawson brought life to the proceedings with each of her vividly sketched characters while displaying a limpid soprano; and Julia Gooding, whose creamy voice added richness to the ensemble, shone most of all as an alluring siren.

Disappointing summer

And so to the end of the first half of the Royal Philharmonic's Mahler Spectacle. Aply enough, the remaining symphonies — and songs of the series will start to unfold on the first day of spring next year. But for the time being it was the turn of Yuri Temirkanov to look back to Mahler's heady summer in the vast 100-minute expanse of his Symphony No 3.

CONCERTS

purpose of existence, no less. And its two parts and six movements were to follow an evolutionary development through "stages of being" from vegetable and animal life to a final revelation of divine love. Only occasionally is a performance well enough rehearsed and deeply enough pondered to enable the listener to sense such aspiration. Temirkanov's with the RPO seemed more an aesthete's view of the natural world from the outside than the sort of absorption in the Dionysiac forces of nature as experienced by the compos-

er. The disruptive applause between each movement only emphasised the episodic rather than developmental character of the performance. There were fine ideas and beautiful playing — but they never seemed quite enough. The massive opening march of summer was shaped by stark dynamic contrasts and tight rhythmic control. The contrasting episodes of gentle effluence were restrained, short-breathed, just as in the second movement, preoccupation with perfection of articulation and balance between strings and wind all but masked the music's Austrian accent.



Yuri Temirkanov: an aesthete's view of the natural world

'I admire the pride that exists in this London orchestra'

But inevitably Masur will chiefly be judged on whether he produces top-class concerts. In few capital cities do orchestras compete as intensely as they do in London for audiences, sponsors and what little subsidy there is. Characteristically, Masur doesn't regard it as a competition at all. "We don't want to make the London Philharmonic the 'best' orchestra in London without caring about what happens to the others. We don't want to be a winner in a race where maybe another orchestra goes out of business. I love the whole musical variety of London too much: I have too many happy memories of working with the other London orchestras. We want to find ways forward that make us all winners, and especially the audience."

Perhaps audiences in London, battered by continual bad-news stories about the arts, are already winners without knowing it. With Sir Colin Davis leading the London Symphony Orchestra, Christoph von Dohnányi at the Philharmonia, Bernard Haitink still (just about) music director at Covent Garden, and now Masur coming to the LPO, London has somehow managed to attract four of the most eminent maestros in the world to lead its musical life. True, none of them will see 65 again. But most music-lovers reckon that conductors have barely started until they pass 70. In which case, London could be in for some vintage orchestral thrills.

Barbican Centre recitals advertisement for Itzhak Perlman and Bruno Canino. Includes dates, times, and ticket information.

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HILARY FINCH

BOOKS

Size doesn't matter for brief inspiration

New short stories by A. S. Byatt and Lorrie Moore have at least one thing in common: they prove the power of the particular

What do short stories offer that novels don't? Why bother with a mere tale when you could go the whole nine yards and get stuck into something you'd really notice if you dropped it on your foot? This question applies as much to the writer as it does to the reader, and A.S. Byatt's delicate new volume of stories, *Elementals* (Chatto & Windus, £12, ISBN 0 7011 6096 9) stands in marked contrast to her last, too-breaker of a novel, *Babel Tower*. Lorrie Moore's last book, *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*, was her second novel; now, with the remarkable *Birds of America* (Faber, £9.99, ISBN 0 571 19529 6) she has returned to the form of which she is such a subtle mistress. One thing that stories can offer is lightness, an ability to play. Ideas which would be unworkable at greater length — which would seem contrived — are swift, delicious experiments in the compact

body of a story. Fear, desire, love, or the lack of it: these are the "elementals" upon which Byatt turns her gaze, and her perception of them here is like a beam of black light, illuminating all she observes with strong, strange colours. The first three stories are the most powerful; the last three have a fragmentary feel, finger exercises rather than tales. But the book is worth having for *Crocodile Tears*, *A Lamia in the Cévennes*, and *Cold* alone. *A Lamia in the Cévennes* and *Cold* are "tales" with a traditional feel and a modern edge. Grimy, *Crocodile Tears* is one of Byatt's great strengths in the way she combines a knowledge of tradition with the freedom to break away from it: that is what makes *Possession* such fun. In *A Lamia*, Bernard Lyonnais leaves West Hampstead for the Cévennes, to paint, a setting, and set-up, that could easily be tiresome in less skilled hands. But what Bernard finds in the Cé-

vennes, and what he discovers he wants is intriguing and unexpected. He seeks beauty, explores it obsessively in the colours of his swimming pool, the countryside, the sky; he pursues it single-mindedly, even when he is offered — as one sometimes is, at least in the world of A.S. Byatt — power and riches by a flirtatious seaman, a reincarnation of Keats's *Lamia*. Bernard's choices are idiosyncratically his own: "He was happy, in one of the ways human beings have found to be happy," Byatt writes, and the same could be said of Patricia Nizamo, in *Crocodile Tears*, who flees the scene of her husband's death — also to the saturated colours of southern France — and even the ice princess of *Cold*. In these three stories Byatt homes in on the small particularities of happiness as it is drawn out from its opposites, sorrow or regret, and surrounds those particularities with brilliant colour and light. Her



Erica Wagner

in a story like *Baglady*, in which a woman becomes lost in the Shopping Mall of Hell (now you know what it's like down there), the reader occasionally feels lectured at. This is not a problem that ever crops up in Lorrie Moore's stories, which exist as vehicles for characters who couldn't lecture you if they tried. The perfection which they possess is of a very different sort than Byatt's crystalline containment. They are stories of displacement and disruption. "When the cat died on Veterans' Day, his ashes were packed into a cheesy pink-posed tin and placed high upon the mantel, the house seemed lonely and Aileen began to drink," *Four Calling Birds*, *Three French Hens* begins. "Mack has moved so much in his life that every phone number he comes across seems to him to be one he's had before," leads us into *What You Want To Do Fine*. People are in the lives they never imagined for themselves, and they are just having to manage with what they've ended up with: the wrong relationship, the wrong name, the wrong house, a sick child. Moore's brilliance is in her ability

to define the jagged edges of her characters' lives without smoothing them down: these are not cosy stories, even if they do, quite often, make the reader laugh out loud. The unique slant of her language never feels forced, despite its ability to make you sit up and take notice. Why not "The moonlight glimmered off the lake like electric ice, like a school of fish"? Because this is so much better: "The moonlight glimmered off the lake like electric fish, like a school of ice." Moore's stories have the ability to be both pieces of larger things — to allow you to imagine the world stretching away to either side of each tale — and sufficient, whole. Their brevity means their possibility is never exhausted, and neither is the reader's curiosity. Moore's and Byatt's books are very different; they jointly illustrate the possibilities of the short story. Novels offer broad scope and breadth; stories offer tight focus and concentration on the particular. One form is not less than the other, any more than a telephoto lens is less than a wide angle lens. It simply depends upon what you want to fit into the frame.



Stormy sea of change

RESURRECTION
By David Rimmick
Picador, £20
ISBN 0 330 36916 4
THE current editor of *The New Yorker* follows up his admirable *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire* with a sharp-nosed analysis of the political battle to shape the new Russian state. Rimmick opens in late 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and ends with the re-election of Yeltsin whose exhausted latter days are dealt with in a short epilogue to bring the story up to date. He has spoken with the oligarchs vying for power, observed at first hand the rise and collapse of corrupt factions and charred the torments of money in the swirling, turbulent currents of an unpredictable society adrift in murky waters. A book at once readable, arresting, and irresistibly tragicomic.

Eye for facts

1066
By Frank McLynn
Jonathan Cape, £18.99
ISBN 0 224 05050 8
1066 *And all That* by Sellers & Yeaman told you all you could remember, wrongly, about the Battle of Hastings. 1066 by Frank McLynn tells you much more than you need to know about William of Normandy, Harold of England and Harold Hardrada of Norway but gets it as right as dogged research and skilful judgement will take him. The Bayeux Tapestry is rotten history, he says, and Harold did not die with an arrow in his eye. McLynn's nicely-judged narrative is set against a complex background of European political, military, religious and personal intrigue.

Interior art

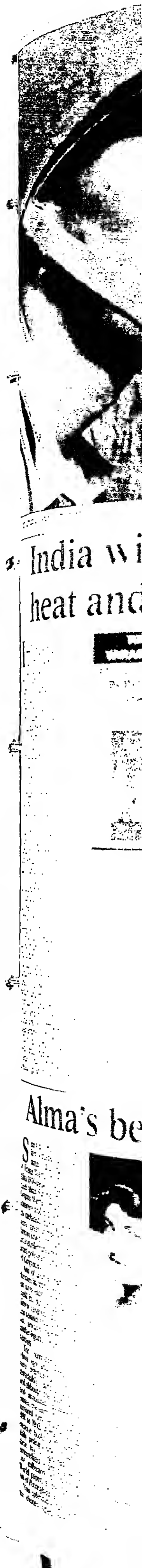
LEONARDO'S NEPHEW
By James Fenton
Viking, £20
ISBN 0 670 87917 7
PROFESSIONAL art critics will not care for a professional poet and literary critic casting an intuitive eye over their field of art history, but scholarly apparatus should be informed by the humane sensibilities of the dilettante. This collection of elegant essays relies on Fenton's eye for the truth of art as well as his ear for a sentence. His lecture, *On Statures*, is a classic of psychoanalytic interpretation. Fenton does not write about art until he understands, at first hand, the techniques of art and the literary and historical evidence for his conclusions.

Islam aflame

WARRIORS OF THE PROPHET
By Mark Huband
Westview Press, £17.50
ISBN 0 8133 2780 6
THE justification for religion and politics is, too often, ignorance. Both are driven by the demonisation of perceived opponents and fuelled by horror stories. Islamic fundamentalist movements in the modern world are a hot issue, and Mark Huband's first-hand account of the political and cultural basis of political Islam in the 1990s is enlightening reading. His analysis of the Algerian crisis, the intellectual importance of Egypt and the chaos in Somalia, is clear-eyed and based in the tenets of Islam. The West's responsibility for the current situation, is a factor in the Islamic revival.

Eve's burden

THE STORY OF EVE
By Pamela Norris
Picador, £20.00
ISBN 0 330 33699 1
WOMAN, thy name is... just about anything. Eve is Everywoman, and the sins of the mother are visited upon the daughters of Eve unto the last generation. It's a big job, being the eternal Bad Girl, but Eve is up to it. There's more interesting work as vamp, tramp, witch, bitch, virgin, Valkyrie, bluestocking and blonde bubblehead traditional temptress and Christian martyr. Eve, ancient and modern, is a quick-change actress. She has found a witty biographer who finds her everywhere.
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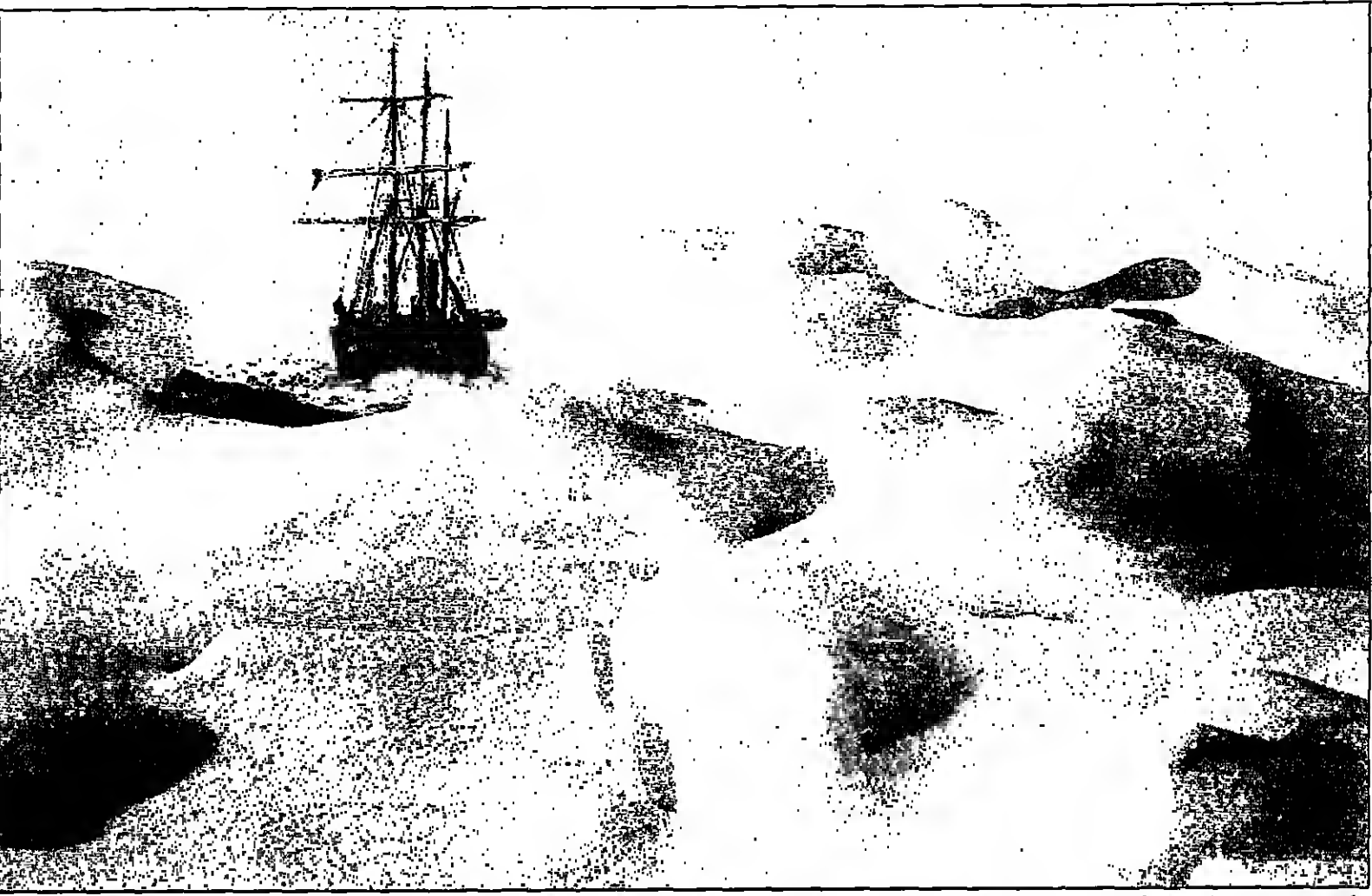


Goodbye to Berlin's jokes

In spite of their shared Russian ancestry, Michael Ignatieff — tall, handsome, Canadian and solemn — and Isaiah Berlin — short, stout, Jewish and monumentally funny — are as different from each other as could possibly be. But that is not biographically disabling. Boswell — debauched, frivolous, Scottish — did well with the austere, serious, deeply English Johnson. Both biographies were composed in much the same way. Boswell's *Johnson* was the result of close observation over 21 years; Ignatieff's *Isaiah Berlin* rests on more than a decade of tape-recorded interviews. It is a solid and serviceable piece of work. It begins in the London apartment of Berlin's last years with an excellent description of his insupportable characteristics: his appearance, mannerisms, voice, style of speech; his hypochondria and his defensive self-deprecation. A sharply observant eye has been at work here. The stages of Berlin's life are then surveyed: early days in Riga and Petrograd, with glimpses of revolutionary nastiness; escape to England, in the first instance to Surbiton, but, later, more suitably, to Hampstead. From there to a contented, but not as intellectually distinguished a career as one might have expected at St Paul's, then to Oxford, to glitter there and in the more literate parts of London society, in wartime Washington and in Israel, in the largest sense of the word. Ignatieff confronts various criticisms of Berlin, mainly put into circulation by Berlin himself. He was inordinately sensitive to criticism and was always anticipating it, with the effect of encouraging it. He had great difficulty getting himself to write, a problem overcome by dictation. He was not a philosopher in the academic sense, but an idiosyncratic historian of ideas. He was superficial. He was too much attracted to the great world. In a misguided pursuit of theoretical importance, Ignatieff constantly refers to one or two of his pronouncements, in particular to the view that the ends of life are irreducibly plural, that there is no one right answer to every problem of choice. That is not what matters in Berlin's writing. Its main value lies in the brilliant portraits of intellectual personalities, great fountains of adjectives and comparisons which bring their minds to life in a way no summary of their doctrines could do. Ignatieff's solemnity has misled him here as it has in his almost complete omission of the incomparable flow of Berlin's talk. He acknowledges that there was a lot of it and that it contained jokes, but none are quoted. One non-solemn thing about Berlin's life he does recognise is his good luck in getting out of Russia, in being in the right place at a number of historically right times, and, most of all, in his marriage, a matter Ignatieff handles deftly. This is a very good book as far as it goes but it needs a companion volume.



ANTHONY QUINTON
ISAIAH BERLIN
By Michael Ignatieff
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 63259

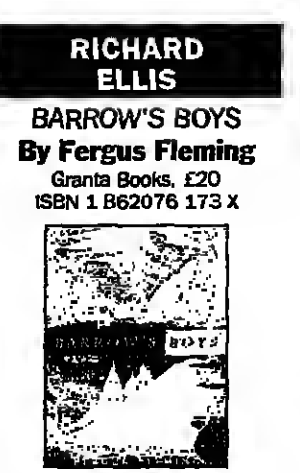


Barrow's legacy: In 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton set sail in the *Endurance*, his goal to be the first to cross the Antarctic, but *Endurance* became trapped in the pack ice. Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance* (Bloomsbury, £20) tells the tale, and reproduces Frank Hurley's remarkable photographs

John Barrow asked: "What lay at the North Pole? Did the Antarctic exist? Was there a North-west Passage? Where was Timbuctoo? What lay at the heart of Africa? Where did the Niger River go?" As Second Secretary to the Admiralty from 1816 to 1845, he was the moving force behind expeditions to find the answers to these questions. Because of his influence and authority, it would have been an advantage if he had had a better idea of what he was doing or where he was sending those expeditions, but as Fergus Fleming tells us, "Almost everything about Barrow's missions had been wrong. Perhaps no man in the history of exploration has expended so much money and so many lives in pursuit of so pointless a dream." Despite his misconceptions, Barrow sent naval officers to the most remote and hostile places on Earth. In 1816, under the influence of his patron, Joseph Banks, Barrow sent James Tuckey to explore the river Congo and discover if it was connected to the Niger. With no knowledge of African jungles, the explorers were beset by yellow fever, their guides ran off with their supplies, and all the officers, including Tuckey, died. This was not unusual for "Barrow's Boys": The North-west Pas-

The glory of great failure

sage was the Holy Grail of 19th-century exploration. If a sea route could be found from Europe to Asia (without having to sail around the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn), Europeans could gain access to the riches of the Orient. Whalers had ventured north from Britain, reporting the occasional openings in the ice. When William Scoresby, a renowned whaling captain, reported that the pack ice between Greenland and Spitsbergen had disappeared, and that this might be the moment to search for an open sea lane to the Pacific, Barrow published Scoresby's plan as his own, rejected Scoresby, and selected Commander John Ross and Lieutenant William Parry instead. They failed — the passage would not be navigated until 1905, when Roald Amundsen sailed through it and declared it useless — but their misadventures, and



RICHARD ELLIS
BARROW'S BOYS
By Fergus Fleming
Granta Books, £20
ISBN 1 862076 173 X

Parry, Beechey, Rae and, of course, John Franklin, became heroes to the public. They got lost and starved, lost their fingers and toes to frostbite, were robbed by indigenous people, their ships were wrecked, and still Barrow sent them back. In 1845, Sir John Franklin, who had made two earlier attempts, took the *Erebus* and *Terror* to the Arctic, sailed to the entrance to Lancaster Sound, and was never heard from again. By 1847, search parties were sent to locate the Franklin expedition. Sir John Richardson tried in 1848-49, but he found nothing. In 1850, Sir John Ross also failed. In the *Investigator*, Sir Robert McClure approached from the Bering Sea, but his ship became trapped in the ice and he had to be rescued. The *Assistance*, commanded by Sir Edward Belcher in 1852, also failed. In 1853, Eskimos reported to John Rae that the men

had perished near King William Island, and Rae collected a £10,000 reward for information on the expedition. Enmeshed in the Crimean War, the British Government refused to send another search party, so in 1854, Lady Jane Franklin equipped the *Rae* and put Sir Francis McClintock in command. In 1859, McClintock found the remains of Franklin's men and the remains of the *Erebus* and *Terror*. The ships had been trapped in ice off King William Island, and 23 men died. The remaining 105 men set out on foot, but none survived. But, says Fleming, John Barrow "set in motion the largest and most expensive series of explorations in the history of mankind", and while the explorers failed, they mapped unknown chunks of the globe, and inspired countless others. There is a statue of Barrow in Waterloo Place, with the incorrect inscription that he was a "great navigator" and that his "brave companions" found the North-west Passage. *Barrow's Boys* is a marvellous book, and should serve as a far better memorial to Barrow, giving the real story of the men who risked (and often lost) their lives for the Glory of England — and the glory of exploration.

When you can't see wood for trees

Kerstin Ekman is one of Sweden's most successful novelists. Her international bestseller, *Blackwater*, was a contemporary thriller set in the far north of Sweden. In strong contrast, *The Forest of Hours* is a lengthy novel of ideas, spanning at least 18 centuries of human history. The main character is a troll called Skord, who emerges from Sweden's Skule Forest to observe and emulate human beings. He ages very slowly and lives a long, rather confusing life, always on the margin of civilisation. First he joins a band of vagrant children scratching a living from the forest floor. Then he becomes the familiar of a corrupt Catholic priest, who introduces him to sex, Latin and cooked food. Next he is taken by outlaws, witnesses rape and murder, and becomes adept at the art of tarot card reading. By the 13th century, Skord has reached new heights of respectability as a servant in the home of an alchemist. This is the beginning of a long struggle to qualify as a legitimate medical practitioner. Evolving from an army surgeon in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), into an 18th-century expert on magnetic massage (with a profitable sideline in constipation), Skord ends



RUTH SCURR
THE FOREST OF HOURS
By Kerstin Ekman
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6614 2

up anticipating Freud and the invention of psychoanalysis. This novel explores the borderline between civilisation and barbarism. By projecting Skord's many human lives onto the backdrop of the primeval forest, Ekman questions the nature of social aspiration. She uncovers the madness, corruption and cruelty behind the stories people tell to make sense of their lives. She experiments with time and sexuality. Her perspective is overwhelmingly negative: no matter how much learning and progress is possible, human beings have their place in the parasitic order of the natural world. From the sodden muck of

the forest in the highest ivory tower there is a connecting chain of dependence and exploitation. This is a novel crammed with literary and historical allusions. Horace and Rousseau represent the famous extremes of Ekman's range, and in between there are countless more quirky examples. But in keeping with the author's theme and perspective, each reference sinks without trace, like dead wood in a bog. None of Ekman's impressive learning is really needed in the telling of her story, except perhaps these lines from Pope: "I am his Highness Dog at Kew; Pray tell me Sir, whose Dog are you?"

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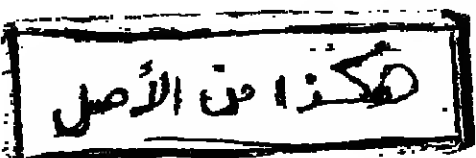
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هكذا من الأصل

BOOKS

A dandy Yankee doodle

With typical editorial brio, and adroit use of pictures, Harold Evans ensnares the US, says Raymond Seitz



America at war: a marine in Korea circa 1950. Photograph by David Douglas Duncan

Harold Evans concludes his vibrant history of 20th-century America with the presidency of George Bush, a reasonable and, as it turns out, fortuitous cut-off point for his supreme millennium project. The only reference to President Clinton is a full page reproduction of a New Yorker cover by Edward Sorel with the caption, "The 42nd president who took America into the 21st century," a dicy judgment given the volatility of American politics.

But Evans is a skilled editor, and it is his editorial instinct that is most impressive about this book. It is a hefty creation (coffee-table size and running to nearly 700 pages) but comfortable, almost indulgent reading. Each section is introduced by a "Commentary" in Evans's elegant hand. There then follows a series of episodic essays, none of which is allowed to exceed two pages. Some of these pieces are unsatisfactory for their brevity, but Evans writes in his introduction that he wanted to make American history accessible to the casual reader and easy to dip into, and so the book sometimes has the tone of an entertaining if abbreviated encyclopedia.

More inventively, Evans also breaks up his text with intriguing insets — a highlighted list of interesting statistics, for example, or a vignette designed to give the feel of an

A few bold-print paragraphs entitled "The Lynching of Cante Kate" anecdotally sum up the lawlessness of the Wild West, and another note called "The Heroism of Bill Sipple" is a brief profile of the loner who saved President Ford from assassination but went unheralded by the White House because of his homosexuality.

Evans reproduces the lyrics of *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?* to evoke the hard times atmosphere of the Depression, and he includes a moving poem by a 24-year-old helicopter pilot which captures the searing agony of Vietnam. Another device is a boxed inset zippily called "Flash Forward" which is designed to answer such questions as, "Whatever happened to Upton Sinclair?" (the scorching muckraker of the Progressive movement) or "Whatever happened to 'Daisy' Beckwith?" (the redneck murderer of Medgar Evers). These little asides, which appear on almost every page, result in a literary collage of lively much and brisk pace.

The broken up format also gives the book the look of a gigantic web site. The reader is invited to scroll through the pages and click on to whatever captures the fancy. It is, Evans confesses, a user-friendly histo-

THE AMERICAN CENTURY
By Harold Evans
Jonathan Cape, £40
ISBN 0 224 05217 9



ry dedicated to "browsers" in both the shopwindow and Internet meanings of the word. In fact, the author might have called his opus, "www dot evans dot com".

As successful as Evans is in his stimulating lay-out, however, the show is stolen by the magnificent portfolio of photographs which accompanies the text. There are 900 prints, and though the editor made the final selections himself, the tributes belong to Gail Buckland. A photographer and accomplished historian in her own right, Buckland's knowledge of America's archives and her unerring eye for the evocative moment have pro-

duced a rich gallery of the American panorama.

There, gathered around a picnic table under a ballooning canopy, sit the contented President Harding, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and Thomas Edison, a kind of Wall of Heroes erected to America's prodigiously commercial Roaring Twenties. Across the top of facing pages are the police mug shots of the blazing Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York, and looks into the jaunty, youthful eyes of the Maine's crew only days before the ship went to the bottom of Havana harbour. And there stand the elegant, upright statesman Dean Acheson and his demagogic predecessor, Joe McCarthy, both looking ridiculous when they are momentarily trapped together in a Senate elevator. Even the dense bibliography at the back of the book turns sprightly with the pictures of each American president since William Taft throwing out the first ball at a baseball game.

Evans writes about American history with the restrained optimism and verve of the im-

migrant he proudly proclaims himself to be. He includes the good, the bad and the ugly, but he is really trying to get to the essence of this huge, dynamic, contradictory nation and to convey the sheer wonder of the place. His analysis is, on the whole, balanced, and throughout the book he makes every effort to trace the multiple streams of American political development — feminism, unionism, the fate of American minorities — without succumbing to the banalities of political correctness.

Curiously, he takes three gentle swipes at Paul Johnson, and occasionally he wags a scolding finger at the republic (at one point he contrasts Woodrow Wilson's willingness to send arms to the Allies in the First World War with the reluctance of the Bush Administration to supply weapons to the Bosnians). But his broad observations are sensitive and acute, nowhere more so than his eloquent description of the struggle of black Americans for civil liberty.

The author poses the question whether a nation of such diversity and such impossible ideals can survive its own experiment, and he answers with the defining American paradox that "if anything is to be preserved it must be change". Harold Evans has here assembled a handsome American portrait album, and a scrapbook of a remarkable national story.

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India without the heat and the dust

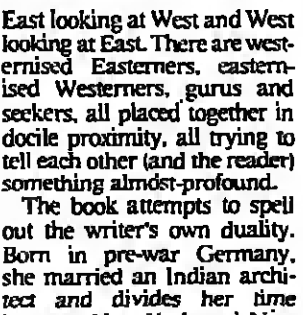
In this latest collection of stories, Ruth Praver Jhabvala writes about India as she has always done. Her prose is elementary and unassuming, her range of vocabulary modest, and her canvas unimpressive. The whole effect is demure and disciplined, and perhaps deliberately unlitigious. Her observations are, as always, homely, starchy, and neatly ironed.

Put another way (a touch more bluntly), there is very little here that is memorable and much, perhaps too much, that is rather easy to read. But is that so bad? Jhabvala has a loyal following, raised on *Heat and Dust* and other, plainer books that were also turned into screenplays. These are the readers who appreciate a good, unassuming tale, who prefer not to have too many difficult characters.

Jhabvala is not for the English types: it is not possible to compare her stuff with the audacious fiction that many post-Rushdie Indians write. Based on familiar and comforting juxtapositions — those of heat/dust and the cold, cultured brown people and cultured white people, Imperial Britain and millennial India, spirituality and money, old values and new ones — her stories are too formulaic to be taken entirely seriously.

East Into Upper East is a book that replays all the themes that Jhabvala has already given to us. There is

TUNKU VARADARAJAN
EAST INTO UPPER EAST
By Ruth Praver Jhabvala
John Murray, £15.99
ISBN 0 7195 5568 8



East looking at West and West looking at East. There are westernised Easterners, easternised Westerners, gurus and seekers, all placed together in docile proximity, all trying to tell each other (and the reader) something almost-profound.

The book attempts to spell out the writer's own duality. Born in pre-war Germany, she married an Indian architect and divides her time between New York and New Delhi. The Indian capital has changed radically from the place it was when she first met it, and many of her musings in *East Into Upper East* dwell on how a gracious past gives way to a coarse present. Jhabvala's stories set in Delhi's environs comprise the first half of the

book, and they set the tone for the second half, when she writes of people who lead troubled little lives in New York.

What do the two cities have in common, apart from Jhabvala's obsession with them? In her stories, the characters in both places lead cramped, claustrophobic lives, yearning always for change and improvement. If there is a theme that runs through the book, it is that of people trespassing on the lives of others, jostling for physical and emotional space in apartments, flats, *havelis* and brownstones that have little room for intruders.

There is the "holy woman" from Delhi who comes to New York and distorts the life of her idealistic hostess. There is the young dance master who captures the maternal love of a Delhi dowager, virtually moving into her home, before he jolts her confidence and shatters her idyll. There is the Englishwoman, a diplomat in post-Raj Delhi, who falls for a dashing young Indian civil servant but is pushed out of his life by a nationalist Indian competitor for his affections.

These are gentle tales, often relentlessly so, with gentle riddles at their heart. None is ever resolved; but each one is smooth. Jhabvala's book is the perfect comfort food for those who want a break from big ideas, for those who want a break from ones from those fat, ambitious Indian books which seem to sit on every bookshelf.

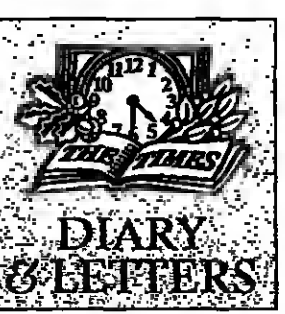
■ A TIMELY reminder of the true nature of politics is offered by novelist Barbara Trapido, whose latest book, *The Travelling Hornplayer*, has just been shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award. At a benefit for the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond last Sunday she chose Richard Crompton's *William the Bad* as one of her "Desert Island Books", reading aloud to a rapt audience from *William, Prime Minister*. Fellow *Outlaw Henry* explains the greasy pole to William: "Do shut up Infrapin," said Henry. "I'm tryin' to tell you 'bout this gen'ral election. There's four sorts of people tryin' to get to be rulers. They all want to make things better, but they want to make 'em better in different ways. There's Conservatives an' they want to make things better by keepin' 'em just like what they are now. An' there's Liberals and they want to make things better by alterin' them jus' a bit, but not so's anyone'd notice. An' there's Socialists, an' they want to make things better by takin' everyone's money off 'em an' there's Communists an' they want to make things better by killin' everyone but themselves."

Would Crompton be one of the "naughty" authors the actual Prime Minister was encouraging children to read?

■ CONTROVERSY perpetuates itself. Lord Huntingfield, in *dislay*, writes to us from Cambridge: "I am annoyed by Lawrence James's review of *William the Bad* (November 5). The First World War was a 'just' war against an aggressive neighbour. What better reason does the

Pity and war

author require? And, yes, a lot of men got into the spirit of soldiering, killing, capturing prisoners and so on: surely no surprise. As for casualties being higher for the attackers in trench warfare, this is so obvious that it beggars belief that your reviewer can call it 'most



disturbing evidence'. Finally, it is nonsense to muddle the unsuccessful peace with our military victory. We lost the peace because communism, Japanese imperialism, fascism and colonial nationalism were all waiting in the wings."

WAR in the kitchen? Who is going to tell us the truth about Elizabeth David, who brought the delicious odours of the French provinces into our lives? A biography by Lisa Chaney has just appeared, but now Penguin Books has brought out a declaration that only Artemis Cooper, who is writing the authorised biography, can give us "the real Elizabeth David". Artemis, the daughter of Viscount Norwich, has been given exclusive access to all Elizabeth David's correspondence, including letters from her early mentor, the great travel writer Norman Douglas, and letters from her husband, Colonel Anthony David, who proposed to her by post amid raging battles in

Italy in 1944. And only the official biographer has access to those wine-stained cookery notebooks...

■ THE Arts Council of England is busting about these days to justify its existence and has come up now with a project for providing young writers with mentors — its Mentoring Scheme. Six new writers will each have an established writer to guide their fingers on their PC keyboards. Very nice for the young writers — but they had better watch out. Even nicer for the older ones, when their pupils' work appears as "School of Carol Rumens" or "Studio of Elaine Feinstein".

Alma's bewitching powers

She was one of the very few sorceresses of our time," said the novelist Franz Werfel of his wife, Alma (1879-1964). Sorceress indeed: Alma Schindler Mahler Gropius Werfel's multitude of admirers and platoon of lovers included, during her 85 years, great composers and famous artists, brilliant teachers and celebrated poets, influential politicians and respected clergymen.

And of course there were the three husbands — as different from each other as men could be, but united in their almost fanatical devotion to and reliance on a woman who was variously their muse and mother-figure, nurse and nemesis.

The formidable Alma, whose ego and carnal life were astonishing, was a remarkably candid diarist, and although she later edited and annotated decades-old entries, she seems not to have censored very much. From 1898 to 1902, Alma filled 22 exercise books with almost daily jottings; until recently these lay — ignored and untranslated — amid a massive collection of Mahler-Werfel papers at the University of Pennsylvania.

Now splendidly translated, the diaries open not only



Revealing: Alma in 1909-10

account of the first sexual encounter with Mahler is almost luridly precise, as are her petting sessions with other lovers). Still, this was no Lola-Lola: Alma was a complex woman, torn between a desire for her own creative life and an almost rapacious sexuality that would have intrigued Freud — and indeed may have, for Mahler later consulted the eminent doctor. "I have two souls: I know it," Alma wrote. "Which is my true soul?"

The conflict continued through her marriage, which was compromised when she became the lover of Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus. Four years after Mahler's death, she married Gropius, from whom she was later divorced. She then wed Werfel, best known for *The Song of Bernadette*.

When Alma died in New York in 1964 — over a century after Mahler's birth — she could count among her brigade of lovers Oskar Kokoschka, Alban Berg, Gustav Klimt and a gifted young Viennese priest whom she drove almost mad. Reading these diaries, we understand more clearly the enchantment and the ego with which this sorceress captivated such a legion of creative cultists.

to me. I would like to kneel before him & kiss his loins — kiss everything, everything." A few months later, Alma Schindler, 22, married 40-year-old Gustav Mahler.

But the diaries, for all their remarkable candour ("I long for rape — whoever it might be!") are full of significant meditations (on the relationship between poetry and music, for example); they are also replete with intimate anatomical particulars (her

windows onto the most creative aspects of fin de siècle Vienna but also into the soul of a gifted and highly sexed woman fighting the constrictions of a rigid society and the impulses of her own dual nature.

"While love, for a man, is a tool for creativity, for a woman it's the principal motive," an it's the throes of obsession for her piano teacher, Alexander von Zemlinsky. "Everything about him is holy

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THE BOOKSTORE

Victoria Fletcher introduces a five-page report on the initiatives in higher education which were rewarded yesterday by the Queen

World-beaters step into the limelight

Excellent performance in sport, the arts and exploration rarely go unnoticed or un-rewarded. Footballers can become generational heroes with a single penalty kick while film-makers can become household names after one inspirational work. But as they bask in the limelight, others with skills of equal measure can often go unnoticed.

Britain's commercial sector has addressed the problem by introducing the Queen's Award for Industry to reward those with outstanding contributions to their country. Six years ago, the Queen's Anniversary Prizes were launched to recognise excellence in higher and further education. These biennial awards recognise projects at universities and colleges that can be regarded as being of world-class, but have not yet been acknowledged by a wider audience.

This year — the third Queen's Anniversary Prizes list — the 21 winners reflect a remarkable variety in the

fields in which they have prospered and the institutions at which they work.

These range from innovative methods of training for the tourist industry at the Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies to more classical subjects, such as applied mathematics at Cambridge University.

Most winners have excelled in diverse — and very modern — areas, including the London Institute's Central St Martin College of Art and Design, which has made outstanding contributions to the fashion world. In an impressive precedent, three of its design graduates this year released *haute-couture* collections.

Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music has developed a new method of teaching string instruments to pupils in large groups. It has developed methods that allow students to learn quickly how

to play and how to teach more than one stringed instrument to a very high standard.

The University of Reading's Renaissance Texts Research Centre has conducted research into how theatres were built in Shakespeare's time. This project influenced the final design of the re-created Globe Theatre on the South Bank in London.

Shakespeare fans worldwide were given access to this information via a website created by the university.

Others institutes include the University of Dundee, where Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri's team have made innovative advances in keyhole surgery. The work was carried out by the surgical skills unit.

Viscount Younger of Leickie, chairman of the Awards Council for the Queen's Anniversary Prizes, said that this year's entries were extraordinarily diverse and of a high quality.

"The prizewinners are exceptional examples of the great contribution that the higher and further education sectors make to the life of the nation in so many ways and in so many fields," he said. "Strong links with outside organisations — including business and industry, voluntary bodies, schools and community organisations — are characteristic of these winners."

"With innovation, inspiration, drive and commitment, they have tackled real-world problems, trained students to meet the needs of industry and the community, promoted new areas of study, enhanced teaching and research and extended the benefits of education and training to an ever-widening audience."

Independent assessors initially chose applicants who stood out, and the final selection was made by the Royal Anniversary Trust, which runs the awards. The winners receive a gold medal and certificate, to be presented by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in February.

There are strong links to business



Penny Stirling, RNCM Fellow in Music Education, with pupils in the Junior Strings Project and their trainee teachers

Learning in harmony

Legions of happy, raucous and enthusiastic children invade the inner sanctum of the conservatoire each evening after school hours. Staff and students at the Royal Northern College of Music have come to welcome the arrival of the youngsters who bring the noisy *élan* of the playground into their sometimes mannered and rarified world.

Passers-by glimpsing their activities in the performance space might see children, as young as six, throwing bean bags, bouncing balls, stomping, walking or running around the hall — all to the dictates of a musical beat.

Although, on the face of it, they may not have much to do with Prokofiev or Purcell, they are learning the rudiments of rhythm using a teaching method based on a novel combination of principles developed by Zoltan Kodály (the Kodály Method) and a system of eurhythmics evolved by Emile Jaques-Dalcroze.

They are members of the Junior Strings Project, the Manchester-based college's unique experiment to train instrumental teachers by allowing them to cut their teeth on groups of children.

The children join the project from the age of six, and spend the next ten years learning to play the violin, viola, cello, or double bass to the highest standards. The

students do not pick up an instrument during the first year. The teachers concentrate on pitch, rhythm and related movement. Before they pick up a violin and draw the bow they are already acclimatised to the physical movements required to make sound. That is the theory.

Some take longer than others, says Roger Slatford, the head of the School of Strings. He said: "When they start playing their instruments in year one, they have already got a pretty good foundation in rhythm and pitch. Some of them find physical and aural co-ordination much more of a challenge than others."

"We take parents in their own classes. Students explain to the parents what is going on so they know exactly what their children are doing and practise at home."

There are now 19 full-time students and 21 part-time students teaching 112 children. Successful graduates achieve a recognised PGCE qualification. "There is an acute shortage of instrumental teachers but no shortage of dull ones," says Mr Slatford. "The sorts of teachers we are training are very broadly equipped. They are going to be useful in schools, so they are in great demand."

Carole Walker, from Burnage, in Greater Manchester, has five children attending different stages of the course from Carmel, 17, studying the viola, to Fergus, 7, who has opted for the double bass. Between them is Hannah, 13, who is concentrating on the cello. Stuart, 11, on the violin, and Jonathan, 9, who has yet to choose his instrument. Hannah has been on the course since 1992.

"We are heading towards a family chamber orchestra," said Mrs Walker. "It is a tremendous commitment but the children receive a wonderful musical training that schools simply cannot provide. From the children's point of view, they joined a little community where they can make friends and even go on holiday together. The emphasis is on fun."

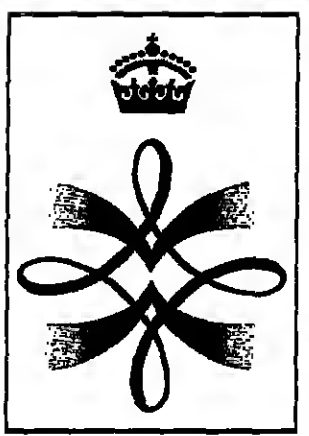
The citation for the Queen's Anniversary Prize reads: "This unique educational project is successfully addressing the need for more instrumental teachers in an imaginative way and is a model for further schemes in this country and abroad."

"It is also an outstanding example of community outreach, while offering young musicians the opportunity to receive a recognised teacher qualification studying at a top conservatoire."

RUSSELL JENKINS

THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

- Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies:** Education and training for the hospitality and tourism industries.
- Bournemouth and Poole College of Art & Design:** Education for the film industry.
- University of Cambridge:** Mathematical applications for problem-solving.
- University of Dundee:** Minimal access surgery: new techniques and treatments.
- University of Exeter:** Children's health and exercise: research and dissemination.
- University of Glasgow:** Computer sciences teaching and research.
- Godalming College:** Real research in A-level science.
- Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge:** Upgrading



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- up-skilling of workers from the voluntary sector.
- The London Institute:** Creativity and innovation in fashion education.
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- University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology:** Engineering and technology in industry: advanced degrees.
- University of Wales College of Medicine:** Chemiluminescence: research and development in clinical diagnosis.
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مكتبة من الأصيل

Will gets on the Web

Two British universities have been awarded Queen's Anniversary Prizes for making important literary and historical texts available to an international audience and for bringing Shakespeare to life for people around the world.

The University of Reading's Renaissance Texts Research Centre has played a leading role in helping to recreate London's Globe Theatre and in transforming the playhouse into an international educational resource.

The University of Sheffield's Humanities Research Institute, meanwhile, publishes definitive electronic editions of major literary texts, historical manuscripts and contemporary archives.

Reading University has created a Globe Theatre website, with a virtual reality tour of the playhouse, which is now being visited by some 25 million people a year — from schoolteachers in New Zealand to high school students in Alabama. The 400-page site also includes reports on early performances of the plays, sections on music and clothing and information about Elizabethan theatres and the reconstruction programme.

Professor Cedric Brown, the head of the university's English department, says: "The comprehensiveness and vividness of the resources on the website make the experience of visiting the reconstructed theatre very exciting and real."

The university also provides scholarly direction for dramatic explorations of the way in which the plays of the period were staged. Academic analysis of this work is changing our ideas about how they would have been originally played at the Globe.

At Sheffield, the Humanities Research Institute is using

new technologies including CD-Roms and the Web to publish works as diverse as the Dead Sea Scrolls, Chaucerian manuscripts, 17th-century correspondence, 19th and 20th-century literary texts and the National Fairground Archive.

Computer analysis techniques developed in evolutionary biology are being used to compare similarities and differences in the 80 manuscripts and four early printed versions of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. A new definitive edition of John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments of the English Martyrs* is being published with facsimile images.

The voluminous correspondence of Samuel Hartlib, a 17th-century thinker and man of science who set out to record all human knowledge and make it universally available, is being published electronically.

Critical electronic editions of the major novels of the 19th-century Spanish writer Perez Galdos and the 20th-century French writer André Gide are in preparation.

Professor David Luscombe, FBA, Leverhulme Personal Research Professor in Medieval History at the University of Sheffield and chair of the Humanities Research Institute, says the institute provided an umbrella for the different projects. They learnt from each other how best to pursue research in a collective, interdisciplinary and supportive environment and how to adopt the most appropriate technologies to suit their needs.

This collaborative approach, he says, is still unusual in the humanities, but its success is attracting increasing interest from scholars around the world.

SIMON MIDGLEY



Millions have visited Reading's Globe website



Preparing for the future: students can train in practical as well as management skills

How to dish up five-star quality

The Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies has become a renowned centre of excellence that produces future managers and skilled staff for the growing hospitality and tourism industries in the UK and overseas. Now its innovative approach has won it a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

Its graduates have a good success rate in finding careers in hotels, pubs, restaurants, theme parks, travel and holiday companies, and visitor and conference centres.

Paul Simpson, the vice-principal for curriculum and quality development, says: "Hospitality and tourism are increasingly important economic activities that demand a new generation of staff equipped with superb technical and business management skills."

About two thirds of the college's 6,000 students are engaged in hospitality and tourism studies, and include people who are retraining to boost

their qualifications. The institution places great emphasis on maintaining close links with companies operating in both industries to ensure that its staff and students gain experience in the commercial world and keep abreast of modern developments.

There are more than 1,500 student work placements every year. Students often work in hotels and for travel firms at Mediterranean and other overseas resorts, and several were employed at the last Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The college has about 250 foreign students, many from Hong Kong and mainland China, where the Birmingham curriculum is highly regarded. Staff are also working in the Maldives to equip local people with the skills they need to work in the tourism and leisure industries there.

Mr Simpson says the college strives to be at the leading

edge of developments in hospitality and tourism through its courses, which range from NVQs right through to masters programmes. It has the UK's first degree course in adventure tourism to produce graduates for roles in the growing market for activity holidays. Its degrees also include ones in hospitality business management and licensed retail management. "Our courses serve industries that have high customer expectations, so there is always a demand for highly skilled graduates," says Mr Simpson.

Birmingham College's state-of-the-art learning facilities embrace five restaurants, two bakeries, a patisserie and a pastry shop that are all open to the public. Students have access to a fitness centre, a visitor information bureau and an outdoor pursuits centre.

The college also offers courses in childcare and hairdressing and beauty therapy.

CRAIG SETON

Cut above the rest

Wherever a British film is being made in the UK or overseas, it's likely that the production team will include at least one former student of the film school at Bournemouth & Poole College of Art and Design.

The influential role the school has played in the resurgent British film industry and its international reputation for innovative and creative education and training is highly praised in the Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

Most of the school's 200 students are engaged in film, animation and audio-visual studies. They are involved in making about 75 films, videos and animated productions each year, many of which are broadcast to audiences worldwide.

They include high-profile film drama, documentaries, commercials, news programmes, chat and game shows and corporate features. Students gain invaluable behind-the-camera experience of production processes, including script-writing, casting, art direction, camera and lighting, sound continuity, post-production and distribution.

Stuart Bartholomew, the college's principal and chief executive, says there is a high



Charles Dance, a keen supporter of the film school

demand for the school's graduates from the film, television and related industries. There are more than 1,000 applications for the 32 film production and 18 animation places available each year.

Among its former students are Simon Beaufoy, who wrote the Oscar-nominated script for *The Full Monty*, and David Evans, who directed *Fever Pitch*. Both these British films have been box-office successes.

As each of the school's productions cost an average of £5,000 it is important to find commercial outlets for the

work. For instance, a health and safety film it made for Somerset County Council is now being bought by other local authorities.

The school achieved its first BAFTA nomination for a student's work in 1985 and since then it has received honours and awards at film festivals around the world.

A one-year postgraduate programme in feature film-making, in its first year, is now attracting significant private investment from people in the film industry.

The programme plans to produce about a dozen 90-minute feature films for independent distribution over the next five years, each costing about £250,000; the first three have already been sold.

The school operates to rigorous professional standards. Mr Bartholomew says: "It is not for the starry-eyed. It can involve very hard, unglamorous work... standing in the pouring rain waiting for a shoot is very testing."

He is delighted with the prize, adding: "It reflects the growing recognition that British art, design and media colleges punch way above their weight."

CRAIG SETON

Designers in demand

THE British fashion designers who head the renowned French haute couture houses of Dior, Chloé and Givenchy are all former graduates of Central St Martin College of Art and Design at the London Institute, which is cited in the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for its enviable reputation in the international fashion industry.

Until recently, no British designer had ever been at the helm of a French fashion house: now Stella McCartney, daughter of the former Beatle, Sir Paul McCartney, is head designer at Chloé. Alexander McQueen is at Givenchy and John Galiano is at Dior.

The trio, whose talents are lauded throughout the fashion world, all studied at Central St Martin, which is acknowledged in the awards for the outstandingly creative designers it supplies to the fashion industry.

Other graduates include Bruce Oldfield, Bill Gibb and Katherine Hamnett. "Our list reads like a Who's Who of the international fashion industry," says Michael Benson, marketing director of the London Institute.


Central St Martin, with 3,000 students, is one of five colleges that make up the institute. Mr Benson says the college sets the trends that are followed around the world.

He believes the foundation for its achievements was established in the Seventies with the development of courses that aimed to equip students with a range of technical design skills that helped their creativity to blossom. At the same time, students were sent out to work in the fashion industry to learn commercial skills. New courses were also launched to broaden the scope of the college's fashion studies, including fashion journalism, production, retailing and marketing.


Today, its degree and postgraduate diploma courses are in high demand: last year there were 1,103 applications for 174 places. Its students are invited to show their collections as part of London Fashion Week and they have little difficulty finding placements with leading fashion houses.

CRAIG SETON

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Queen's Prize citation

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مكتبة من الأصل



Meeting and greeting on behalf of business the Frontline Service team of Mid-Kent College

Well-schooled in the art of persuasion

The success of two of the country's leading sixth-form colleges in improving the quality of their students' educational experience has been recognised in the Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge has been rewarded for the imaginative way in which it has transformed its city campus into a state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment ready for the millennium.

Godalming College in Surrey has enhanced the education of its chemistry, physics, design and technology students by engaging them in high-level research at the frontiers of their disciplines.

Five years ago, the Hills Road campus had only a shabby collection of old-fashioned buildings, poor sports facilities and a score of mobile classrooms. Today there is a sparkling new sports and tennis centre, a new classroom block, four open-access computer resource areas, a new recital

hall, music teaching and practice rooms, new art and design facilities and a bigger library and resource centre.

The school persuaded the National Sports Lottery Fund to award it £739,000 for its new sports hall. And the Lawn Tennis Association granted it £350,000 to create a national centre of tennis excellence in Cambridge.

This was supplemented by £330,000 from the Cambridgeshire Lawn Tennis Association, £245,000 from the city council and £100,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. After adding £1.2 million it persuaded the Further Education Funding Council to contribute £3 million more, bringing its total redevelopment funds to £6 million.

Colin Greenhalgh, the principal, says: "We have a very popular college with a tremendous academic reputation. We owed it to our high-calibre staff and students to provide facilities of the quality that they deserve."

"I think we were singled out because they said that to do this £6 million programme — one-and-a-half times our annual budget — is pretty remarkable without plunging the college deeply into debt. Now, as we go into the millennium, we think that we are in as good a position as any college in the country."

At Godalming College, 16 to 19-year-old students are involved in pioneering research into molecular chemistry, robotic research and satellite technology. To help them, the college has established links with Sussex and Surrey universities and with industry.

In chemistry Godalming's students are conducting research into "buckyballs", football-shaped carbon molecules that were discovered only in the late 1980s. In physics they have designed two insect-inspired robots to work in inaccessible places, and in design and technology students have designed and built a mechanism for raising antennae on satellites.

Linda Le Versha, the vice-principal of Godalming College, says: "Through this project we have been able to give our students the confidence to work in unfamiliar territory. They have not only been able to experience the intellectual challenge and creative stimulus of operating in a research-orientated environment, but they have also broadened their theoretical and technical skills, and they understand the costing, practical application and marketing of scientific developments."

The Queen's Anniversary Prize is an acknowledgement of how the college has enriched its science teaching by introducing students to the excitement of exploring new frontiers in research and to the practical applications of science and technology.

SIXTH FORMERS

Numbers winners

SCIENCE

EVER SINCE Archimedes leapt out of his bath, claiming to have "discovered" the fairly obvious principle of displacement (chop gets into bath, takes up space, water level rises) mathematicians have acquired a reputation for flashes of enlightenment. John Young writes. Pythagoras was similarly smitten by the fact that the square on the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle equalled the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

The possibility of inspiration occurring at the most unlikely moments explains why blackboards and chalk have been installed in the lifts and even the lavatories of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Cambridge University. No doubt if Newton had a blackboard handy when the apple fell on his head, he would have covered it with several lines of algebraic symbols.

The Institute was founded in 1992 to promote the application of mathematical research to help to solve practical problems in science, engineering, technology, medicine and commerce. Examples of its work include the study of disease outbreaks and the likelihood of their developing into epidemics; the modelling of plankton, on which the marine food chain and the fishing industry depend; the provision of more reliable weather forecasting, and the monitoring of global warming.

The Queen's Anniversary Prize citation states that the institute "has made a huge impact in establishing the relevance of mathematics to a wide range of problems of acute public concern".

Listen, be flexible — then deliver

Pioneering work by two further education colleges in developing imaginative programmes to meet the training needs of young people and adults has been recognised in the award of Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

Plymouth College of Further Education has built a network of more than 40 urban and rural outreach centres offering adults training in basic employment skills and opportunities for life-long learning. Mid-Kent College of Higher and Further Education, on the other hand, has developed a service to industry, business and local government whereby students being trained in customer service skills meet and greet visitors to exhibitions and other events.

The main focus for the Plymouth College outreach programme is to provide training at places and times convenient to the adult learner.

In the far Southwest of England long distances make it difficult for a scattered rural population to attend training in traditional colleges and in deprived inner-city areas training and education is often viewed with suspicion.

The idea was to develop a training network of outreach centres and teaching materials that would enable people in these areas to benefit from education and training. These centres are linked to the college's open access centre in Devonport by video/modem so that students receive online distance tuition from college tutors. The first courses were in information technology but engineering, manufacturing, management and language training are now included. The scheme involves initial counselling and induction in the outreach centres, high-quality training materials and on-demand tutorial support.

Andy Leal, the college's head of Open and

SERVICES

Flexible Learning, says: "The key to success was that we listened to our customers. They wanted training when they wanted it, where they wanted it. When we started that was impossible, but by developing innovative methods of delivery and creating our own materials we can now deliver training throughout the far Southwest."

At Mid-Kent College the Frontline Service team gives practical experience to students studying for NVQs in customer service by enabling them to work as meeters and greeters at events such as the opening of the Channel tunnel and the Kent County Show. The service, now run on a semi-commercial basis, was born after the college realised that local business needed help in running events. Originally only six students offered the service; this year 60 were involved. Frontliners wear a blue uniform with white gloves and undergo a personal development programme as part of their training. The latter includes education, deportment, image consultancy and specialised training to make them aware of the needs of deaf people. They also get a chance to learn a language.

Irene Davies, the director of business development at Mid-Kent, says: "The service is becoming increasingly popular. The students are professional and have a high reputation."

"Tourism is a big industry in Kent. We need high standards of training in customer care. This work is innovative in terms of work experience. The students are doing live work experience out in the field and are being recognised for their professionalism in an area that Britain is keen to develop to support the economy."

Keys to software security

The communications revolution brought its own problems as well as benefits — not least a threat to confidentiality. The activities of "hackers", exposed how computer secrets can reach the wrong hands.

Experts in the Information Security Group at Royal Holloway, University of London, helped to train those responsible for national security or safeguarding our industry and commerce. The ISG acts as security adviser to many government and commercial organisations and collaborates with security specialists in industry and commerce. It regularly assesses the effect of codes used to encrypt electronic messages and determines ways to ensure that such messages are genuine and the sender's authentic.

Now a well-established and

highly regarded doctorate programme has been supplemented by MSc and diploma courses. The ISG has worked for more than ten years with Hewlett-Packard, which sponsors a research assistant working on smartcards, has equipped a laboratory for the purpose and sponsors an annual one-day colloquium at the college. Vodafone also recently established a part-time Chair of Communications.

Other recent projects have included assessments of an encrypting process for the National Health Service to protect medical records, another for the European Telecom-

munications Standards Institute and the design of a new cryptography system for the Ministry of Defence. The Queen's Anniversary Prize citation says the group "offers world-leading, independent expertise".

JOHN YOUNG

Students enter world of export

TECHNOLOGY teaching in schools used to be handicapped by the high cost of physical materials, electrical components and manufacturing equipment, John Young writes.

Middlesex University's Technology Education Centre was set up 15 years ago, with an £11,000 grant from the Manpower Services Commission, to try to bring schools and colleges closer to industry. The centre's first step was to buy a range of teaching materials that would be available to students at cost. Professor John Cave, who led the project, quickly realised that many items could be made on the spot, utilising previously little-used machinery. "Industrial-

grade machinery was being switched on only once a year for a student demonstration class," he recalls. "We put it to use in making items for a 'consumables bank'."

Before long, two injection-moulders manufacturing plastic trolleys and gear wheels were working around the clock. Today the centre can provide more than 150 products and its "customers" include more than half of Britain's secondary schools. It also exports products — and has won a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

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UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

A second Queen's Anniversary Prize for the University of Exeter

The work into paediatric exercise science being conducted by the Children's Health and Exercise Research Centre forms a key activity of the University's School of Postgraduate Medicine and Health Sciences. This is the second time the School's work has attracted a Queen's Anniversary Prize. It also featured in the last round of awards in 1996 for its work in clinical microvascular research. Collaborative research programmes which bring together these two vitally areas of expertise are currently being developed.

The School is looking to further enhance its international research reputation in areas including:

- Paediatric exercise science
- Vascular medicine
- Molecular genetics
- Cell biology
- Community health sciences and health services research

The School of Postgraduate Medicine and Health Sciences welcomes applications from postdoctoral and/or postgraduate researchers to work in these areas. It also welcomes applications for its extensive range of taught programmes.

For further information about the School, its research and teaching, call 01392 405006. Alternatively you can access its web site at <http://www.ex.ac.uk/pgms/>

We're proud to receive one of The Queen's Prizes for Higher and Further Education for 1998. (Just as we were in 1996.)

Middlesex University is honoured to receive a second Queen's Anniversary Prize in recognition of the work of the university's Technology Education Centre.

Yet more evidence that we have fast become London's most popular and most innovative university.

Popular

For at least the past four years more full-time UK undergraduates have chosen to apply to Middlesex University than any other university in London.

Innovative

In 1980 we offered the first part-time MBA in London and recent course innovations include veterinary nursing and herbal medicine. Our first Queen's Prize in 1996 was for pioneering development in work based learning. Today's announcement, in recognition of innovation in technology education, makes us one of only a handful of institutions to have been awarded two Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

For more information call 0181 362 5000.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE

The Centre provides a wide range of resources which support a technology teaching in schools, colleges, universities and industry. Its facilities and equipment have made many projects and courses possible at a price which is affordable. The Centre's staff are available to provide advice and support to schools, colleges, universities and industry. The Centre's staff are available to provide advice and support to schools, colleges, universities and industry.

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The University of Sheffield is proud to have been awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the work of its Humanities Research Institute

For further information on the Institute, please contact Professor Norman Blake, Director of Research, Humanities Research Institute, University of Sheffield, e-mail: n.f.blake@sheffield.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/DH/hri/>

Mid-Kent College is proud to receive a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher & Further Education and would like to thank our students and staff who have made our Frontline Service a model of excellence in Customer Service Training.

For more details of the Frontline Service, contact Irene Davies, Director of Business Development on 01622 691555, e-mail: irene.davies@midkent.ac.uk

MIDKENT COLLEGE

PROVIDING pure water and safe sanitation for the world's poorest people has been the aim of numerous conferences and resolutions for years. John Young writes. But progress on the ground has too often been hampered by corruption or inefficiency, wars and natural disasters. In this situation, the practical expertise of the Institute of Development Engineering at Loughborough University has won admiration worldwide.

Over a quarter of a century it has provided teaching, research and consultancy in more than 65 countries. Since 1981 it has undertaken some 90 projects researching technologies and management systems appropriate to the needs of urban and rural populations in developing countries.

It also applied its research to providing emergency relief, and was selected by relief organisations to assist refugee crises in Honduras, Sudan, Rwanda and Zaire, and among the Kurds after the Gulf War. Worldwide, 30,000 children die every day, a third of them from diseases due to unhygienic practices.

In the citation for this year's Queen's Anniversary Prize, the Water, Engineering and Development Centre, which forms the core of the institute, is commended for its "outstanding support" for developing countries. The citation adds that its "partnerships with universities, aid agencies, governments and non-governmental organisations transcend academic, institutional and cultural boundaries in pursuit of improving quality of life for those most in need."

Mr M. Z. Karim, Unicef's chief of water and environmental sanitation in Kenya, says: "Professionals who are



Splashing out: Loughborough graduate Misford Mikuwa

Adding a real sparkle to life

working to provide safe water and adequate sanitation find the quality of education in Loughborough University very helpful in improving access to basic services to reduce these unnecessary deaths."

The centre has many research students in Britain and working abroad and employs staff on research and consultancy contracts.

Brains that put industry into top gear

For two decades, Umist has pioneered advanced degree courses in collaboration with industry that produce gifted engineers with a muscular approach to the problems of managing a commercial business.

The sprawl of laboratories, offices and lecture theatres that make up the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology based near Piccadilly in Manchester's city centre, is no academic ivory tower. Graduates who have emerged with honours through the collaborative masters and doctorate schemes are now leading British industry through top jobs in major companies.

The courses are designed to engage students in a wide range of thought-provoking business and technical problems faced by manufacturing and engineering organisations. In short, they have got to keep an eye on the bottom line.

Clive Rowland, the managing director of Umist Ventures, the college's resources, marketing and technology transfer arm, said: "Umist has been pioneering these advanced degree courses for industry for a very long time now - going back 20 years. We have carried on innovating since then."

"They are high-quality degrees emphasising engineering management. There is a strong element of making engineering very much a part of management. Key to these courses is that students leave with an MBA or advanced management certificate as part of their engineering and applied science training. It is 'whole person' training."

"Students spend a large amount of their time with sponsoring companies. All the

Manchester is producing a new breed of brilliant engineers, writes Russell Jenkins

'Umist graduates are driving technology in many top jobs'

overs of several millions of pounds."

Some recent successes include projects to cut the emission of ozone-eating gases from fire extinguishers and work to develop computer-aided design technology to help a biscuit manufacturer.

One student, Dr Paul Babbs, under the tutelage of his department head, Dr Kevin Barber, helped to streamline aircraft production at the former British Aerospace plant at Woodford.

The citation for the Queen's Anniversary Prize reads: "A pioneer of collaborative engineering and technology-related advanced degrees, the institute continues to lead the field with its comprehensive programme to produce highly qualified, all-round engineers able to contribute fully to the challenges of the modern technological age. It has deservedly an international reputation as a centre of excellence."



DESPITE notable advances in diet and medicine, young people today are in many ways less healthy than their counterparts of a generation ago. John Young writes. They take less exercise, play fewer physical games and, under the influence of television and computers, lead a generally more sedentary existence.

Professor Neil Armstrong, above, of Exeter University's Children's Health and Exercise Research Centre, notes that only a quarter as many children walk to and from school as did 20 years ago. Half of all girls and one third of boys in secondary schools do not experience even a brisk ten-minute walk once a week. The centre, established in 1987, has won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its work on children's health. So far more than 3,000 volunteers, aged five to 16, have taken part in trials, exercising heavily while their heart and muscle-growth are measured.

"Until recently, very little was known about children's physiology," Professor Armstrong says. "We've tended to assume that children are just mini-adults but, in fact, they are very different. We have also discovered that they are not nearly as active as people think. From an early age boys are more active than girls, but in their teens both sexes become notably less active."

A lack of exercise may lead to ill-health in later life. Professor Armstrong, a former professional footballer, wants parents to set a good example. "Lazy parents have lazy children," he says.

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From Tony Potter - Chief Executive, Choice Hotels Europe....

In the early days in the seventies, the Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies was on its then new site and there was an air of excitement and of breaking new ground in hospitality. It was a time of learning, friendship and fun ... they have achieved so much, and I send them my heartfelt congratulations in being awarded The Queens Anniversary 1998 prize.

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BRITAIN

CYCLING, walking and self-drive breaks around the Cotswolds and based in Cheltenham are on offer at a £20 saving this month and next from Compass Holidays. Two nights' B&B at family-run hotel and detailed itineraries cost £80. Details: 01242 250642.

COSY cottages in the West Country are available at warming prices from Farm and Cottage Holidays, with a property that forms part of a farmhouse in north Devon costing £145 for a week from November 28. Details: 01237 479698.

THE annual Queen's Festival in Belfast opens today and will run until the end of the month with an interna-

tional programme of theatre, music, dance, art and literature - everything from the Royal Ballet in Brian Eno and the works of Yoko Ono. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board will be able to advise on travel and accommodation. Details: 0541 555250.

THE Irish countryside is an alternative attraction available at a special rate from Irish Ferries Holidays. Three nights' B&B from November 20 in a choice of homes and farmhouses is available from £69, based on four travelling together, and includes return ferry travel for car and passengers. Details: 0990 170000.

INTERNET courses for novices will be less stressful by joining two-day online breaks off the beaten track in Devon. The courses at The Barn, Huntsham, cost £110 with dinner, B&B, tuition and surfing... on the Net. Details: 01398 361519.

IF YOU still want his body and think he's sexy, Rod Stewart is appearing in concert at Earls Court, West London, next month, and Superbreak is offering a ticket and B&B in a nearby four-star hotel on December 11 from £135. Details: 01904 679999.

EUROPE

CRUISES to Madeira, the Canaries and Morocco with calls at French and Spanish ports, are on offer at discounted prices from Festival Cruises. Fly from Stansted on November 18 or 29 to join the ship in Savona, Italy, for 11 nights at sea. Prices start from £599 and inland excursions to Granada and Marrakesh are also available. Details: 0171-436 0827.

PORTUGAL is peaceful if not that hot at this time of the year, but the price for a week's self-catering at Praia Rocha is warming enough: £149 from Sunset Holidays with a flight from Manchester on November 21. Details: 01204 434441.

A PARADISE near the top of Mount Teide, Tenerife, is available from Prestige Holidays for £499 for a week, with B&B, return flights and car hire. Details: 01425 480400.

EXPLORE the Danube delta, home to more than 300 bird species, from a floating pontoon hotel and also visit Romania's Black Sea coast, famous for its rare red-breasted geese, on a week's birdwatching trip with Naturetek, starting with a flight from London on No-

vember 21. The tour costs £895 with all meals, accommodation and expert guides. Details: 01962 733051.

DISNEYLAND Paris for a three-night break from November 22 is on offer from Thomas Cook Holidays. Adults will pay £260 and children just £56 for B&B at the theme park's main hotel, unlimited entrance and travel on Le Shuttle for a car and passengers. Details: 01733 418800.

ITALIAN cities can be visited for shopping or culture at reduced prices until mid-December with Italian Expressions. Three nights' B&B in the Hotel Ingilterra in the heart of old Rome now costs £415, with return BA flights from London or Manchester. A similar deal at the Hotel Excelsior Gallia in Milan costs £372. Details: 0171-435 2525.

COOKERY courses before Christmas are available in the pretty French port of St Vaast with Intravel. Sail with your car from Portsmouth to Cherbourg on December 10, spend three nights with half-board at the renowned Hotel de France et Fuchias and join the course and culinary visits, including a trip to an oyster farm, for £176. Details: 01653 628862.



See Big Thunder Mountain on a trip to Disneyland Paris

LONG HAUL

SOME amazing flight deals have landed on the market for those prepared to move fast - or at least pay up quickly; Tony Dave writes. Adelaide, South Australia, for £219 return is the most breathtaking, but to catch this offer you must be ready to fly from Gatwick on Sunday and return within two to eight weeks. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.

AMERICAN offers include New York, Boston and Washington for £199 return from Heathrow, and Miami and Orlando for £229 from Bon Voyage. Phoenix is available for £281 return from Gatwick with Quest Worldwide. These deals are valid for departures until mid-December but must be paid for by the middle of next week. Details: Bon Voyage 0800 316 0194; Quest 0181-546 6000.

LATIN AMERICAN specials are on offer from STA Travel for students and under-26s with return flights on Continental Airlines to 15 destinations from Mexico to Chile, costing from £399. The deal is valid for departures up to March 25, excluding the

Christmas period, but must be booked by the end of November. Details: 0171-361 0262.

FAMILY holidays to Florida are available at good savings with Funway Holidays until mid-December. Prices, from £30 for an adult and £165 for children aged 2 to 11, include return flights from London or Manchester, a week's accommodation, car hire and discount book. Details: 0181-462 0222.

MISS WORLD contestants will be departing themselves around the Seychelles before the final on November 26 and, if you want to be part of the glamour, Somak Holidays is offering a week's B&B at the Reef Hotel, Mahe, from £769 with return flights. Details: 0181-423 3000.

All prices based on two travelling together and sharing a room unless otherwise stated.

WEEKEND TRAVEL

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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CRICKET

Crawley creeping ahead in race for last Test place

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS

ENGLAND will not fully reveal their Ashes strategy in their final warm-up game, which starts here tomorrow in the far north of Queensland...

Adelaide, where he not only swung the ball but also maintained a disciplined off-stump line, has probably assumed any doubts over his inclusion in the Test side within a four-man seam attack...

The third option is potentially the most interesting, but also the most unlikely. Ben Hollis may yet come closer than any previous candidate as a plausible international all-rounder...



Hollis: potential

With the first Test in Brisbane a week away, England are leaning towards the most conservative of their options, the inclusion of a seventh specialist batsman...

John Crawley, who missed the match in Adelaide and hence fell short of the century-making Mark Ramprakash for the automatic sixth batting place, will play here and probably needs only to maintain his encouraging start in Perth...

In England settle on playing all seven of the batsmen in their party, they are likely to go into the opening Test without a spin bowler. This can be thought a dangerously narrow policy on a ground where Shane Warne spun them to defeat four years ago...

England were travelling for nine hours yesterday and the players have been given their first free day of the tour today. Some will be experiencing the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef...

Hegg's wife, Joanne, is overdue with their first child and the management decided that he could return to Lancashire as he would not have played in this match anyway...

Superficially, at least, Stewart remains untroubled by his fitness start to the tour. He missed the first match through back trouble and then made two noughts in the second...

Stewart is aware that this will not be straightforward as Queensland have chosen a powerful team that would not look entirely out of place at Test level...

Andrew Symonds, whose dalliance with England caused such controversy, became the eighth Queensland international when he played for Australia in Lahore on Tuesday...

Michael Kaspravic and Andy Bichel, both Test bowlers, will take the new ball for Queensland, who are captained by Ian Healy...

QUEENSLAND (from 11): Healy (captain), M Hayden, J Maher, M Lewis, S Law, A Symonds, C Carey, A Bichel, M Kaspravic, A Dale, P Jackson, J Davies.

West Indies make delayed start to their tour Lara and Hooper introduce late show

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN SOWETO

As Brian Lara sauntered out into the middle of the sun-soaked Soweto Oval, but swinging whoops of delight went up from the uniformed schoolchildren lining the boundary...

The Caribbean-style carnival atmosphere in the heart of this famous township was a world away from the unsavoury events that meant a delayed start to the West Indies' first tour of South Africa...

If the local fans were still upset they were not showing it. When the West Indies opening batsman lifted a ball high in the direction of distant mine dumps for four, the packed stands roared their approval...

Whether it was winning the team or the warm reception his team received that pleased him Lara did not say, but he was all smiles and sweet diplomacy...

It is hoped the tour will boost cricket development and this theme was one that President Mandela stressed forcefully in his emotive letter to the players...



Clayton Lambert is watched by a captivated group of Soweto schoolchildren yesterday

The West Indians opponents featured several black players who have come through development programmes and they spoke of their excitement that the 'Caribbean Kings' had come to town...

to the players, in which he pleaded with them not to pull out of the tour. About 3,000 people turned out in Soweto and, with the match being shown live on television, it was an opportunity for the West Indies players to give a taste of the flamboyant style for which they are famous...

time, the West Indies XI had recovered from a precarious 41 for three to reach 258 for seven in 47 overs. There was a delicious irony that the heroes of the day were the same villains who last week seemed prepared to put money before everything and put the tour in jeopardy...

SQUASH

Bailey and Allison take home command

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

WITH the game's leading women still involved in the world team championship in Stuttgart this week, it was the fifth-string activity that altered the balance of the SRA National League this week...

In group A, Tania Bailey, the world junior champion, defeated the higher-ranked Tracey Shenton 5-0, 9-6, 9-7, 9-3 to secure a 3-2 home victory for Nottingham over Manchester Northern...

Kate Allison also won for UNW Northumbria, assisting in a 4-1 home success over Hallamshire that moved the Newcastle side into second behind the resting group A leaders, TSM Duffield...

In group B, it was the 9-0, 9-2, 9-2 victory of Stephanie Brind over Lisa Stephens that clinched a 3-2 home win for Chichester over UNIS Guildford, the previously undefeated group leaders, to move above Lee-on-Solent, who went down 4-1 away to Devon and Exeter...

Brind, who put two seeds out of the World Open last week, is also certain to be part of the England selectors' planning for the European championships next April. Bishop's Stortford achieved a similar home boost, beating Loughborough 3-2, thanks to a 9-4, 10-8, 9-1 victory by Rebecca Macree over Jenny Tranfield...

Alison Wray kept up the home record for women by beating Vicky Lankester 9-6, 9-5, 9-5 in the tie between Edgbaston Priory and UKP Cornaught, but it was a lone point for the home team as the Cornaught men, including the world junior champion, Ong Beng Hee, for the first time, took the top four rubbers...

Del Harris and Julian Bonnetat, just back from early defeats in the Pakistan Open, went down at the top of the Edgbaston Priory and Bishop's Stortford orders respectively. Nick Taylor, who beat Rodney Byles, the world champion, in the US Open last week, lost at the top of the Manchester Northern order to Simon Parke...

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Barry Rigal reported this hand from the Great Britain-Norway match in the Junior European Championship...

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer East, N-S Game, IMPs, and card suits (S, W, N, E) with specific cards listed.

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: slight of diamonds. Reading the lead as 'top of nothing', Jones ducked the first round of diamonds but won the second to block the suit...

duck the queen of hearts smoothly, without revealing the position. Now a heart to the king risks East cashing three tricks in the suit if he started with AJx. However, the ace-jack of hearts and king-queen-jack of diamonds makes 11 points in the Norwegian style 11-counts seem to be opened routinely. Having passed as dealer, East was unlikely to have all this. The Times Book of Bridge 2, featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AP, tel: 071 388 2404, price £7.99, post free for Times readers. Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British race It is interesting to observe that in Matthew Sadler's first super-tournament, he not only finished ahead of Michael Adams, who played on top board for the British Chess Federation team in the Kalmykia Olympiad, but also defeated him in their individual game (see this column of November 2). Nevertheless, Adams enjoyed the rather more exciting tournament at Tilburg, winning three games and losing three as compared with Sadler's sole victory, with his remaining games drawn. In today's game Adams inflicts defeat on the powerful Bulgarian grandmaster Veselin Topalov.

Chess game record for White: Michael Adams vs Black: Veselin Topalov, Tilburg, Holland 1998. Sicilian Defence. 1 e4 c5, 2 Nc3 e6, 3 Nf3 a6, 4 d4 cd4, 5 Nd4 b5, 6 Bc3 Bb7, 7 O-O Qb6, 8 Nf3 Qe7, 9 Re1 Bc5, 10 e5 f5, 11 e6 Nf6, 12 Ne4 Bxc4, 13 Bxc4 Nc5, 14 Bxc6 Qc6, 15 Ne5 Qe7, 16 Bb1 O-O, 17 Bg3 Qb7, 18 Qe2 Bxb5, 19 Nf1 Rxc8, 20 Rad1 Nc5, 21 c3 Bc7, 22 e2 Bc2, 23 Qe4 e4. Diagram of final position.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Barbero-Cebe, Budapest, 1998. Can you spot White's winning coup?

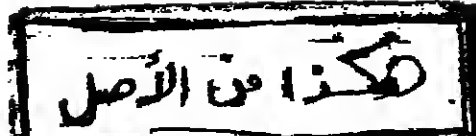
WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard VALONIA a. A battlefield b. Acorns c. A tranquilliser RECALESCENCE a. Extraction b. Heating c. Resurfacing URIM AND THUMMIN a. Cities of the Plain b. Divine objects c. Natural functions TAPPI a. Mythical mountain beast b. Metal-working c. Testing schedule Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

Solution on page 54

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SQUASH Bailey and Allison take home command

BY COLIN MCCULLAN WITH the games leading women still involved in the world team championship...

Dettoni dodges the big issue

Richard Evans finds the jockey reluctant to offer a more detailed answer to the \$5 million question

Frankie Dettoni's image as the most popular face of racing received a needed boost yesterday when he uncharacteristically stonewalled all questions about his controversial ride on Swain in the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic last Saturday.

Richard Evans, who acts as Dettoni's business manager and is normally only too happy for his client to grab the spotlight, was only slightly more forthcoming. "Everyone won't get nothing from me. I am sorry," he said.



Dettoni ignored the Breeders' Cup ride on Swain at the launch of his video yesterday



Albemarle and Richard Dunwoody take a crashing fall at the last day at Newbury, but renewed their partnership to finish third

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 1.00 Ten Of Diamonds, 1.30 Balfour Lady, 2.00 Piper's Rock.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.30 Roberts Maiden Hurdle, 3.00 South West Racing Club Amateur Riders Handicap.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 1.10 Richards Castle Conditional Jockeys Selling Handicap Hurdle, 1.40 Banks's Business Buddies Handicap.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 12.20 Castles Burning, 12.50 Al Mabrook, 1.20 Love Opera.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.10 EBF National Hunt Novices Hurdle, 2.40 Bates & Hunt Groom Novices Chase.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.00 40's Racing Club Novices Handicap Chase, 3.30 Wilmshier Handicap Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.00 Weatherbys Stars of Tomorrow Open National Hunt Flat, 4.30 Wilmshier Handicap Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 3.10 Banks's No 9 Handicap Chase, 3.40 Buquet Gas Maiden Hurdle.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 1.50 Fry & Pollard Claiming Stakes, 2.20 Wye Stakes.

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EQUESTRIANISM Whitaker feels fit to mount British challenge

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BERLIN

JOHN WHITAKER, now fully recovered from his horrific fall from Hunter's Level in Vienna last weekend, will compete in his first showjumping World Cup qualifier of the season at the Berlin International Show, which starts today.

Whitaker, who was knocked out and badly concussed, spent the night in hospital but was well enough to jump on Amber du Montois, an 8-year-old mare for which Whitaker has high hopes, is one of his rides this week.

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Lampard, whose superb performances at the world championships in Rome helped Britain to win the bronze medal, feels that her top horse, Abbervill Dream, could also be a "little rusty".

Michael Whitaker is riding his two top horses, Virtual Village Ashley and Two Step, but Billington is giving his leading horse, Virtual Village Irs Omo, a well-deserved rest after his superb performance in Monterrey, Mexico, last month, when he was runner-up in the grand prix. Billington has an unexpected addition to his string in the form of Ronnie Massarella's Orthos, which he was asked to ride a week ago. "If I get on well with him he'll be my ride in the qualifier - if not, I'll be Niko," Billington said.

He may find himself struggling on a second-string horse. The qualifier has attracted an impressive entry that includes Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, the world champion and holder of the World Cup, Hugo Simon, of Austria, three times a winner of the cup, and the four members of the gold medal-winning German team at the world championships last month.



Whitaker: recovered

FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Welton v Langney Sports. FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk v Finn Harps (7.45). RUGBY UNION TOUR MATCH: Oxford University v Fiji XV (7.30).

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RUGBY UNION

South Africa cite White after off-the-ball clash

By MARK SOUSTER AND ALASDAIR REID

THE South Africa Rugby Football Union yesterday cited Jason White, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, for allegedly stamping on Braam Van Straaten, the South African fly half, during the opening match of the eight-game tour at Firhill on Tuesday night, which the South Africans won 62-9.

Having reviewed a BBC Scotland tape of the off-the-ball incident that occurred in the 65th minute, Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, identified White, a former captain of Scotland Schools and Scotland Under-18.

Allan Hosie, the chairman of the Five Nations Committee and the match commissioner,

will hold a disciplinary hearing at Murrayfield today. If found guilty, White could be suspended for 60 days.

The 21-strong South Africans party that travelled to Scotland returned to London yesterday and linked up with the international team that is due to play Wales at Wembley on Saturday.

Mallett was clearly still incensed by the alleged foul play and repeated that Van Straaten's head-guard had been pierced by a stud and that the player had stud marks on his nose and forehead.

"It was fortunate he was wearing his head-guard because he could have sustained a serious injury," Mallett said.

"Without it he would have needed 20 or 30 stitches. Before we came on tour, I made it clear that I would not tolerate foul play, either from my own players or from any of the opposition."

Van Straaten was well enough yesterday to be included among the replacements for the international on Saturday alongside Gaffie du Toit, Werner Swanepoel, Robbie Skinstad, Selborne Boome, Ollie Le Roux and Naka Drot-ske.

The South Africans have no injury worries but will no doubt be looking at ways of reducing the penalty count, which was five to one in Glasgow's favour.



Catalano, lining up a blue during a practice session, has ambitions to become good enough to break into the men's game. Photograph: John Ost

Quinnell return gives Llanelli new heart

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LLANELLI celebrated the return yesterday, after four years away, of their prodigal son, Scott Quinnell, and hinted that they are ready to look further into the market.

"This is a big day for Llanelli and West Wales rugby," Gareth Jenkins, the club coach, said as Quinnell took up a three-year contract after spells with Wigan rugby league club and Richmond. The No 8, who plays for Wales against South Africa on Saturday, is expected to make his reappearance in Llanelli colours against Pontypridd on December 5.

He will be joined by Salesi Finau, the Tongan centre, who takes up a two-year contract after playing rugby league with Canberra Raiders, and Jason Barrell, the prop from New Zealand, whose contract will take him to the end of this season, after which he will return to Waikato Chiefs.

Richmond valued Quinnell at £200,000 and Llanelli, after two years of financial strug-

gle, were joy about the source of their funding. The Welsh Rugby Union may have helped by offering Quinnell their own contract, but Llanelli also have the backing of Huw Evans, the businessman who is their chairman.

Franco Properzi Curti, the experienced Italy prop, has been suspended for striking Marcello Cuttitta, his teammate, after a verbal exchange at the end of the international against Argentina in Piacenza on Saturday. He will miss the World Cup qualifying games against England and The Netherlands.

France will give debuts to Thomas Lombard and Sylvain Marconnet, both of Stade Francais, in their opening international of the season against Argentina in Nantes on Saturday. Emil Ntamack, the Toulouse wing, returns after nearly two years struggling with a groin injury.

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Catalano takes cue from her cousin

Maria Catalano, 16, is already well known to the snooker hall habitués of the West Midlands. Representing her club, Riley's, she is the only female playing in the Stourbridge and Dudley League and is the youngest competitor on the women's circuit. The game, she claimed, is in her blood, which is not surprising because Ronnie O'Sullivan, the flamboyant world No 3, is her cousin.

"I've loved snooker since I was about 6," she said. "I used to watch Steve Davis on the telly and then go and practise half the night in my room. I knew Ronnie was a snooker player but it was only when he started getting shown on TV a lot during the 1995 world championships that I saw what he could do. He was so exciting and I knew then I wanted to take up the game seriously."

A year ago, the World Ladies' Billiards and Snooker Association (WLBASA) joined

forces with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) and it became a rule that prospective professionals had to be at least 16. Catalano counted down the days and played her first significant tournament, the British Open, last March in Stevenage.

She beat the world No 8, Mandy Fisher, in the second round and reached the last 32 in the world championships at Sheffield in the next month. "I missed my exams to play in that one," she said. "I was back to take my music, and passed, but there was never any question of staying on at school. A couple of the teachers didn't like the idea of me becoming a snooker professional, but most of them encouraged me."

The UK championships, starting in Bournemouth at the end of this month, will provide the steepest test so far for Catalano, who is now ranked No 21 in the world. "I haven't been that pleased with my results so far," she said. "be-

SARAH POTTER



cause I know I can do a lot better. Ronnie tells me I've got loads of potential and that I'm going to be No 1. That's what I'm aiming for."

If she manages to pot her way to the top of the women's rankings, she would like to try to break into the men's events.

There is no rule to prevent this but, as yet, only Allison Fisher, who now pockets lucrative fees playing pool in the United States, has got anywhere near the necessary standard.

"Pushing a cue is not about strength, so a woman ought to be able to play just as well as a man," Catalano said. "To be honest, I think it's about dedication."

Unlike the men's game, the financial rewards hardly encourage full-scale commitment. Last season, Karen Carr and Kelly Fisher were the only registered full-time professionals and of the eight women's tournaments on the calendar this season, only half are sponsored. The winner's prize-money ranges from £500 to £5,000. Catalano, who lives in Netherthorn, near Stourbridge, is sponsored by her father, Antonio.

"Dad has his own ice-cream business," she explained. "The agreement when I left school was that I'd help him get the vans ready in the mornings and he'd pay for me to

practise my snooker in the afternoons. Eventually, I'd prefer a company to back me because it would mean less pressure. If I don't do well at the moment I think I've let my family down."

Catalano thinks that being a close-knit family has helped them to overcome what she described as "a nightmare" — O'Sullivan's father is in prison after being found guilty of murder. "He was just such a brilliant person, nobody could believe it," she said. "It did knock Ronnie, of course. But he's become stronger each day and now he's got his head back together. I know he's going to be world champion soon."

"We were playing pool on holiday in Gran Canaria last December and all these people kept coming over, saying 'oh my life, it's Ronnie!'" He just said: 'Hang on, this is my cousin Maria and she's the one who's going to be the best'. He always puts me first and that makes me feel really proud."

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Prices are per person and are based on double occupancy. They do not include the port charges of £129pp. Standard Victoria Travel booking conditions apply.

This holiday is operated by Victoria Travel, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd. Abta and Atol bonded.

CHANGING TIMES

ICE SKATING

Time for Britons to start justifying financial aid

By ANGELA COURT

WHEN the 1998 senior British figure-skating championships get under way at Planet Ice, Milton Keynes, tonight it should become clear whether the substantial funding the National Ice Skating Association (NISA) has received from the National Lottery Sports Fund has been well spent.

With only one figure skater, Steven Cousins, worthy of a place at the last Olympics and no woman competitor sent to either the 1998 European or world championships, British skating is going through a difficult period, and if those now competing internationally do not meet targets laid down by the association, funding could quickly be withdrawn.

There are just three seasons before the 2002 Winter Games, and if the British Olympic Association (BOA) uses the same criteria for these as it did for 1998 — skaters having to achieve wins over competitors who finished in the top half of the field in previous world championships — a swift improvement is crucial.

However, Kevin Buryse, NISA's National Performance Director, is not only confident of a full team for the 2002 Games, but is predicting medals for 2006. "We can now afford to send our skaters abroad to train and also bring



Holmes: junior hope

BOWLS

Champions march on

By DAVID RHYS JONES

ANDY WILLS and Stuart Airey, who became the first English pair to win the Manulife Hong Kong international classic last year, stayed on course for a place in the quarter-finals, when they chalked up two more victories against international opposition in the round-robin stage at Kowloon.

Wills and Airey have played at lead and second respectively on Tony Allcock's England rink in the home international for six seasons and have clearly picked up some of his attacking flair.

They stole a double on the last end against Bill Cumming and Richie Haydon, of Zimbabwe, yesterday to sneak home 18-17, then defeated Sazeli Sani and Syed Mohammed, of Malaysia, 21-14. It was the sixth win by the English pair in seven matches and kept them at the top of their group.

These Malaysians have come a long way in four years," Airey said. "No one there had heard of bowls until Kuala Lumpur was chosen as

the venue for the Commonwealth Games, but they are incredibly accurate."

Ray Logan and Graham Robertson, of Scotland, lost their fourth game in six matches, against Gary Chan and Pat Fung, from the local Filipino Club, 22-21, a score more respectable than the Scots deserved.

In desperation, Logan, who started the tournament at lead, skipped for the match against Canada. The change proved fruitful, as Scotland won 22-10.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Endacott looks for more steel

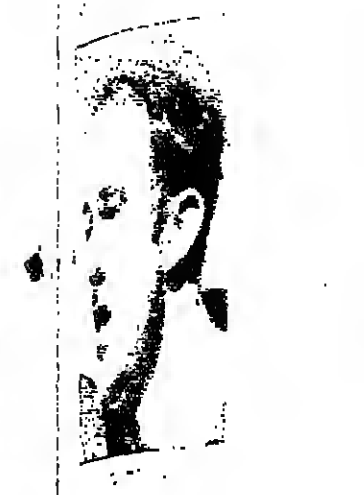
■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Craig Smith has included New Zealand after the substitutes' bench as the only change for the final match of the Lincoln Finance series against Great Britain, who trail 2-0 (Christopher Irvine writes). Smith takes over from Tony Iro, which means that the touring team will go into the match at Watford on Saturday with four prop forwards. "I expect a more rugged affair and Craig is a strong, tough individual, ideal for that situation," Frank Endacott, the New Zealand coach, said. Britain are expected to name a changed line-up today, partially because of injuries.

■ **BOXING:** Jane Couch, Britain's first licensed woman professional, will make her home debut in London this month and admitted yesterday: "It's like Christmas. I can hardly wait." The Lancashire boxer will appear against Simona Lukic, 18, from Germany, over six, two-minute rounds, at Caesars Night Club in Streatham on November 25. "Now let's give people the chance to judge for themselves," Couch, who had counteracted problems obtaining a licence, 28, said.

■ **TENNIS:** The National Indoor Arena in Birmingham is to play host to the eagerly awaited Davis Cup first-round tie between Great Britain and the United States, which marks Britain's return to the World Group after a lengthy absence, from April 2-4 next year. Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski are expected to lead the British challenge.

■ **SQUASH:** The senior England women qualified for the world team championship quarter-finals by beating South Africa 2-1 to finish at the top of pool B. Australia, the defending champions, progressed from the top of pool A.

THE TIMES FOOTBALL
Luton k
Lawren
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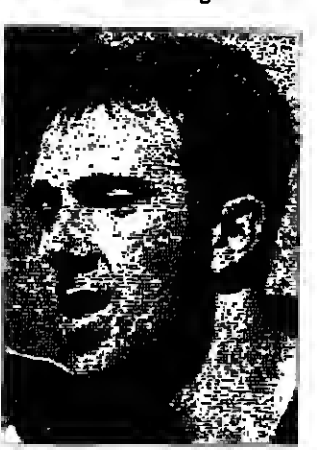
FOOTBALL

Luton keep Lawrence in line for Wembley

By Our Sports Staff

LENNIE LAWRENCE and Joe Kinnear may manage two of the less fashionable clubs, but both can now harbour realistic dreams of a Wembley appearance after guiding Luton Town and Wimbledon respectively into the last eight of the Worthington Cup.

After he had claimed his seventh goal this season, albeit via a deflection off Chris Morgan that wrong-footed Tony Bullock in the Barnsley goal, Lawrence said: "He had a terrible time last season. He had a back operation in the summer and obviously we all wondered how he was going to do. But he has done well for us this season. He leads the line well and he is now getting his share of goals, none more important than the one last night."



Gray: praised

Gray, the Northern Ireland international who had three games on loan with Barnsley during the 1998-99 season, was singled out for praise, particularly after a poor spell last season during which he struggled with injuries and scored just two league goals in 17 matches.

Wimbledon's 2-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium put them into their second quarter-final in three years, and Kinnear may feel that his club is overdue some luck. In 1997 Wimbledon reached the last four in both the main cup competitions, only to lose out to Chelsea and Leicester City. This time, Kinnear is desperate to go all the way to the final.

"I would love to go to Wembley," Kinnear said. "I have been knocking on the door for a few years now, but it just hasn't broken for me in the games that matter. Maybe this year might be the year for us."



Kennedy celebrates after the free kick that beat Bolton and put Wimbledon one step nearer the Worthington Cup final

Wolves extend Lee's perfect start

By Our Sports Staff

COLIN LEE'S fairytale start as caretaker-manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers continued on Tuesday night when his team came from behind to beat Sheffield United 2-1 at Molineux in the Nationwide League first division. David Connolly and Carl Robinson, who scored within 60 seconds of coming on as a substitute, scored for Wolves.

"We deserved an equaliser," Aldridge said. "We did not get the rub of the green and my goalkeeper believes their man played for the penalty which decided it."

Stoke City on top of the second division as they battle to keep their noses in front of Fulham. Both sides triumphed 2-0 away from home, Stoke beating Burnley and Fulham getting the better of Wrexham.

Hull City may have sacked their manager, Mark Hatley, but the results remain the same for the club at the bottom of the third division. Hull were on the wrong end of a 2-0 scoreline against Brighton at Boothferry Park, even though the visiting team played for more than half an hour with nine men after Ross Johnson and Andy Amott sent off.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for Football, Italian Cup, Rugby Union, Squash, Tennis, Pools Dividends, and Ice Hockey. Includes match results and scores.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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Clough mixes new brew for Burton

David Powell meets a famous name on the managerial ladder

On television in the bar at Moor Green on Tuesday night, Liverpool were playing Tottenham Hotspur. Outside, one of Liverpool's out-of-control boys was adjusting to life downstairs. "It is still a game of football and you still want to win," Nigel Clough had been saying, before taking the field.

Warthington Cup. Dr Martens Cup? Liverpool, Burton Albion? Things are much the same, just on a smaller scale. "Clough insisted, applying the philosophy of the raffle winner who, after drawing the second prize of a weekend in Bourne-mouth, instead of the fortnight in Hawaii, says: "It is still a holiday, just smaller scale."

The scale of Moor Green to Anfield was less than one to 150, though the 126 spectators who turned up for the Dr Martens Cup tie were no less entertained. The 22 draw, featuring Clough playing only his second 90 minutes for Burton, was lively, highlighted by a goal that the main man in his heyday has been proud to score.

Emeka Ejiofor's first goal had been followed by a corner-flag celebration of the kind that earned him a kicking off when he tried it under John Barton, the previous Burton manager. Perhaps Clough, newly appointed player-manager, will rule by fear in time, though one doubts it. "I have mum's personality, not dad's," he said.

Dad, as you will know, is Brian Clough, who never won the FA Cup as a manager. One day Clough Jr bopes to provide the missing piece in the family jigsaw but, for now, taking Burton forwards towards a possible tie against one of his former clubs, Nottingham Forest, Liverpool's Michael Okeefe is the priority.

On Saturday, Clough 32, and forced to retire from League football this year because of injury, is involved in the FA Cup first round for the first time. The heel trouble is not so bad that he cannot turn out at non-League level and he may be among the substitutes. So much importance does Clough attach to the FA Cup tie to a team of reserves against Moor Green.

Having made his own name as a player, Clough Jr is undaunted at following Ol' Big 'Ead into management. "He comes over as likeable and charming but there is steel and determination there," Ben Robinson, the Burton chairman, said. "We are confident he is going to achieve." And Gendie-man Nigel is prepared to get his shirt dirty to succeed.

Clough Sr has not been to watch Burton yet, although he was consulted before Nigel accepted the job. "We discussed whether I should try to keep playing in the lower leagues, get some coaching, take a youth team or reserve team appointment, or dive in at the deep end with Burton," Clough said.

"I chose Burton because it was available and I would rather be in charge from day one. If you go somewhere as No 2 you may get labelled as that and I fancied living or dying by my own decisions. There are a lot of people applying for jobs in football, but I play and coaches out of work, and you have got to take what is available."

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er cousin

er cousin... text about a cousin's game. Photograph: John Os...

SPORT IN BRIEF

SPORT IN BRIEF: Endacott looks for more steel... text about steel and other sports news.

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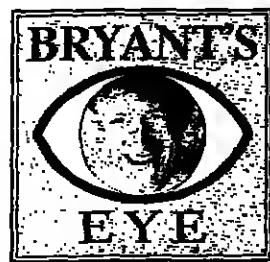


Moceanu with her parents, from whom she is estranged

Young lives impaired by vaulting ambition

Can there ever be any prize in sport so golden, so glittering, that it is worth the saddest loss of all — the loss of a childhood?

If ever a child seemed born to win it was surely Dominique Moceanu. It is said that when he first clapped eyes on her in a Los Angeles hospital, her father, Dumitru, announced to her mother, Camelia: "She looks very strong. Looks good for a gymnast."



This time it was in a courtroom, not a gym, and the opponents were her own mother and father.

Back in his native Romania, Dumitru, a former car salesman and restaurateur, had been a fine but frustrated gymnast himself. His parents had insisted that attendance at school was more important than endless hours in the gym. He lost his dream of making the Romania national junior team, but vowed that his own child would one day make up for that.

He shared his vision and drive with his wife and together they had the baby Dominique performing before she could walk. At the age of six months, they had her dangling from a garden clothes line. By the time she was three years old she was in relentless training.

Her success as a child athlete was impressive and reached a climax at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, when, despite a stress fracture in her right leg, she was at 14 the youngest of the United States' gold medal-winning team, dubbed the Magnificent Seven. She performed with a courage that made her a cult role model for the young and the darling of the American public.

Over the past month, however, Dominique has been in another contest, just as serious and just as fiercely fought.

Three weeks ago in the most remarkable indictment of the pushy sporting parent syndrome, Dominique ran away from home — got herself a lawyer and applied to the court to be legally declared an adult. She did this, she said, to escape parents who had controlled every moment of her life and to get her hands on some of the millions that her amazing talent had earned.

In the most bitter charge of all, Dominique claimed that her father had robbed her of her childhood. "When I went to compete when I was young, I was always in fear because I would get yelled at by my father," she said in an interview with a Houston newspaper. "I never had a childhood."

"It always had to be about the gym," she said sadly. "I would think: Don't you guys know anything besides gymnastics? Can't we go out for ice-cream? Can't you be my Mom and Dad instead of me being your business."

In her lawsuit, Dominique claims that she has reason to believe that her father has "mismanaged" millions of dollars on endorsements, exhibition tours and her autobiography. "I kill myself training and going to school,



Moceanu studies documents relating to the court case in her Houston apartment

and what is he doing with my money?" she said. "They haven't been working since 1996. Where does their income come from? Me."

None of this should come as a great surprise to any parent who has read *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*.

Written three years ago by a San Francisco sports-writer, Joan Ryan, the book documents the seamy and exploitive side of elite gymnastics. Ryan accused some of the best-known coaches in the United States of "legal, even celebrated, child abuse" of female Olympic hopefuls.

Certainly the line between unreserved parental support for a sporting prodigy and pressure that borders on abuse is a fine one. The tales of eating disorders, shattered bodies and broken spirits tumble out of Ryan's book.

She chronicles how a prepubescent physique and an artificially lightweight body have become keys to a gymnastic career. "Women's gymnastics," she pointed out, is a misnomer today. "Once these

athletes become women, their elite careers wither. In the meantime their childhoods are gone. They risk serious physical and psychological problems that can linger long after the public has turned its attention to the next phenomenon in pigtails."

Of course, no parents ever set out to destroy their child's life, but far too many get carried away by early success. It is not just in gymnastics. In any sport where you can see the very young excelling, you



The graceful Olympic star

will find children climbing to the top on the shoulders of overambitious parents.

This is not to say that children should shy away from such sports and gymnastics as a recreational sport for children is superb, and can teach fine lessons in grace, balance and healthy athleticism. But ever since the elfin-like Olga Korbut wooed the world at the 1972 Munich Olympics, coaches have capitalised on the seemingly irresistible appeal of presenting their athletes as little girls.

Dominique Moceanu has gone from little girl to legal adult at the stroke of a judge's pen. Her father stood in tears as the judgment was made. Her first sad act as an official adult was to sit down with an accountant. "This is a great, but a sad day," she said, adding that she would never live at home again. At 17, the court has ruled her childhood is now legally behind her.

But really she never had the chance to be a little girl, and her childhood was lost the day she was born.

JOHN BRYANT

TENNIS

Henman and Rusedski closing on Hanover place

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

TIM HENMAN is one victory away from booking his place in the ATP Tour finals as a result of beating Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in the Scandia Open in Stockholm yesterday.

The Great Britain No 1, who stands in seventh place in the championship standings, will qualify for the eight-man Hanover event if he beats the winner of the match between Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Gustafsson. Victory for Henman tomorrow would secure him an unassailable lead over Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Russian who is in ninth place.

Henman's close proximity to qualifying doubtless contributed to a tense opening against Ferreira, who twice served for the first set at 5-4 and 6-5. Twice Henman responded by breaking Ferreira's service before seizing the ensuing tie-break. This setback demoralised Ferreira, who had won his past two encounters against Henman.

The South African was promptly broken at the start of the second set and Henman wrapped up the match 7-6, 6-3, when he again captured Ferreira's service on his second match point at 5-3.

Henman, seeded No 3, was not the only Briton to advance his Hanover prospects in Stockholm. Greg Rusedski, who at present occupies the eighth and final qualifying place, maintained his own charge by routing Tommy Haas, of Germany, in their first-round match. Rusedski broke Haas in each of the German's first four service

games to run out an impressive 6-1, 6-4 winner.

The potency of Rusedski's improved service returns was evident as he swept through to a second-round joust today with Vincent Spadea, of the United States. "I couldn't be playing much better," he said after his success yesterday.

Rusedski must win his next three matches to ensure his participation — ahead of Kafelnikov — in the Hanover championship, which starts on November 24. "I'm just thinking about my tennis and everything else will take care of itself," he said when asked how he viewed the prospect of reaching Hanover for the second consecutive year. Should Rusedski fail to make the required progress this week, he will still qualify if Kafelnikov fails to reach the final of the tournament in Moscow, where he is the defending champion. The Russian took another step in that direction yesterday when he overcame a slow start to better Sebastian Grosjean, of France, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. His next opponent, for a place in the semi-finals, is another Frenchman, Guillaume Raoux.

However, Rusedski is buoyant after beating Pete Sampras in the Paris Open final and relishes the fact that he can control his own destiny.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 50

VALONIA

(a) Large oaks and their copses from the *Quercus nana* species, an evergreen oak, and its oaktree relatives. They are found in the regions of the North Eastern Mediterranean. Valonia is valued for its rich content of tannin.

RECALESCENCE

(b) Heat suddenly generated when ferrous metal cools through a critical temperature range. This happens because of a change in crystal structure. It shows up as a "cooling curve", a graph of temperature versus time. Recalescence can be visible in a dark room.

URIM AND THUMMIN

(c) Two divine objects, whose precise nature remains obscure and contested by biblical scholars. The Urim and Thummin were carried in an ephod, part of the High Priest's vestment. By them the will of Jehovah was held to be declared. One possibility is that they were white and black stones, as for blackballing in London clubs.

TAPPI

(d) An acronym from Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. This regulates the testing of products. Thus, weight and thickness of paper are determined by Tappi T410 and 411 respectively. T423 is folding endurance. T414 is the force required to tear a single sheet. T452 records reflectivity (in blue light).

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Nf4 wins, as if 1... Qxe2; 2. Ra6 mates.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A dog's second-best friend

Personal Services: Give a Dog a Home

Channel 4, 8.30pm

A series on personal service providers may not set the pulses racing, but trust John Pitman to squeeze from it the genial whimsy which has become his television trademark. His first film is about dogs and a company called Home From Home, which offers an alternative to kennels for dog owners going on holiday. This is a carer, a dog lover who can be relied on to give the pet a spot of loving care while the family suns itself in foreign climes. Thus Toto, a Yorkshire terrier which prefers cat food to dog meat, is billeted on 78-year-old Wyn Bellingham, and Oscar, a boxer, ends up with a mother and son, Rose and Fred Hill. Jean White, meanwhile, hopes that her temporary charge, Susie, will be a diversion for her roving-eyed husband. If the dogs, and the humans, are all a bit unusual, that is how Pitman likes them.

dinnerladies

BBC1, 9.30pm

Victoria Wood's much-heralded first sitcom is set in a factory canteen in the North of England and, as might be expected from a Wood script, contains some relishable lines. One of the more printable concerns Auntie Dot who got so merry at a wedding that she ate a rabbit, drinks coarser thinking it was a high-fibre biscuit. The lines are delivered at a tremendous pace by Wood and a cast in which Thelma Barlow, once of *Coronation Street*, joins Wood regulars such as Julie Walters, Celia Imrie and Duncan Preston. That Walters plays Wood's Mum is bizarre but in this context not surprising. The trouble with the show is that there is nothing to bind its ingredients together. As a short sketch it would have been fine, but to sustain a comedy over half an hour needs something more. Such as a plot.

Body Story: Under Pressure

Channel 4, 9.00pm

We have seen something like it a dozen times on *Casey*: a building site foreman having a bad day at work wolfing down an unhealthy burger for his lunch, takes a puff at an equally unhealthy fat, tries to work off his stress by kicking a ball and starts to feel what he thinks is indigestion but is



The cast of *dinnerladies*, a new sitcom by Victoria Wood (centre) (BBC1, 9pm)

actually a heart attack. Rushed to hospital, he is given a clot-busting drug and an electric shock with enough watts to light a football stadium. But each stage of the fictional scenario we are taken "inside" the man's body, courtesy of computer animation and specialist photography, and told what is going on. The non-specialist may find the explanations heavy going. This is a medical lecture that makes few concessions.

Science At War: The Laboratory of War

BBC2, 9.25pm

Just after the First World War Fritz Haber, a German chemist, won the Nobel Prize for his work on nitrates. But he will be better remembered for something more sinister and horrible. Haber saw as a way of ending the stalemate of trench warfare. It was first used against French troops at Ypres in 1915, causing 10,000 casualties. But while Haber became a national hero, his wife, also a chemist, declared that chemical warfare was a perversion of science. Within a week of Ypres she committed suicide. How, say attacks were on the Allies responded in kind, one of their victims being the 29-year-old corporal Hitler. This first in a series about science's impact on 20th-century warfare takes the story of poison gas up to Saddam Hussein's use of it on the Kurds. Peter Barnard

RADIO CHOICE

The Al Read Show

Radio 2, 9.00pm

There are repeats and there are trips down memory lane: this is the latter, for Al Read was one of the pre-eminent radio comedians of the 1950s and 1960s and this series is an opportunity to see just how much comedy has changed. Read came from Salford and was a no-nonsense individual who would have decried the pretensions of "alternative" comics. Read focused mostly on ordinary people. He had several alter egos, including the hideous Johnny Knoxville, the ultimate pub bore. He also mined a rich vein that is ignored by comics nowadays — the football manager — including one monologue in which he excitedly dictates a flowing move in a training session and ends: "Right, now we'll try it with the ball."

RADIO 1

6.30am Zed Ball 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley, Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq, The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 1.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Janine Weller 7.00 David Alan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Al Read Show. See Choice (p. 5) 9.30 The News Huddles 10.00 Dennis Williams 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 Katrina Leschich 3.00am Mo Dute

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Breakfast, with Julian Worraker and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Dime. Presented by Jane Goiny and Peter Allen 7.00 News 7.30 On the Line, Investigative sports programme 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops, Round-up of what's new in British basketball 9.30 Sportshop. Sports consumer programme 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 6.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hain 6.45 Hammet Scott 10.00 Mark Forster 1.00am James Martin 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Kirsty Young 9.00 Scott Chisham 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Rastburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night 5.00 Bill Overton

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Stephanie Hughes reviews the new production of Boris Godunov by English National Opera. Music includes Monteverdi (Lamento di Astarote), Holst (Paul's Suite) 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbay. Includes Górodon (Polovtsian Dances, Prince Igor), Liszt (Piano Sonata in B minor), Michael Haydn (Slovakian music: Zelenka), Taverer (Song for Athens), Tchaikovsky (Hamlet Fantasy Overture) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Mstislav Rostropovich 11.00 Sound Stories: Briefcase Candies Guido Cantelli 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (Sounding the Century) The fourth of five concerts given earlier this year by the Lindsay, Tippitt (Siring Quartet No 4); Shostakovich (Siring Quartet No 9, Op 117) (r) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra: The BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Ingo Metzmacher and Paul Daniel. Includes: Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 4 in G); Shostakovich (Charlestons for Clarinet); Stravinsky (Buster: The Firstbird, 1945 version) 4.00 Ensemble (r)

RADIO 4

6.00am Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Scotland's News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.20 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg 9.30 Shortlines: Beach Boys See Choice 9.45 (FM) Serials: Marmalade at an Infantry Officer James Wilby reads part four of *Scorched* Sassoon's autobiographical novel (r) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Crossing Continents Report on a Puerto Rican environmental disaster blamed on the US Navy 11.30 *Corby* and *Sweeney*: Ed Appleby Christopher Lee's thriller, with Christopher Benjamin, Amanda Redman and Dudley Sutton 12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 *Brain of Britain* 1998 The second semi-final of the general knowledge contest, chaired by Robert Robinson 2.00 The Archers (r) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Love and Dissent Tena Pope's adaptation of *The Secret Dance* of Sarah Thomas, chronicling five stormy years in the love life of a Baptist minister's daughter in a Victorian Cornwall 3.00 Call You and Yours 0171 580 4444 3.30 Powerful Substances: Par Dana Lamman talks to trippers and fashion gurus about the new drug 3.45 *Cellar Tales* Alan Bennett reads: Hilary Belton's classic verse and the poet Glyn Marvell 4.00 Law in Action The legal programme, presented by Marcel Berlins 4.30 The Material World Trevor Philips looks into the effects of quantum computing on the way

Shoreside

Radio 4, 9.30am

PC Norman is a "rural beat officer" stationed at Swanage, Dorset, and part of his beat is Studland beach. The dunes behind the beach are his main problem: "Ideal cover for anybody who's up to no good." Mostly this involves naked bodies. These are acceptable "within the designated area", although a watch has to be kept for paedophiles. And that is the story behind a bearded man seen wearing a skirt? That and other curiosities arise in this new series which aims to be an atmospheric portrait of five coastal areas, starting with Studland. The first programme is certainly atmospheric but I could have done with some narration. But the mix of history, archaeology and social life is nicely handled. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Off the Shelf Tales from David 7.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 Pop The Question 8.00 News, (648 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Wood, Gus and Brass 9.30 Science Desk 11.00 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsbeat 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 Record News 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News 12.05 World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Early Versions 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newhour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: X-Press 3.00 News, (648 only) News in German 3.25 Sports Roundup 3.15 World News 4.30 Insight: (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Assignment, (648 only) News in German 7.00 News, Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newhour 8.00 News, 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Mandarin Books 10.00 Newsbeat 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 John Peel 12.00 Newsbeat 12.30am Woodley 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsbeat 1.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsbeat 2.00 Focus on Faith 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast 8.00 Henry Kelly, Includes the Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 100 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music: 2.00pm Concerto, Weber (Clarinet Concerto in E flat major) 3.00 James Cook, Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romances 6.30 Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven John Brunning introduces classic music 9.00 Afternoon Concert. Includes: Mozart (Mazurka); Paderewski (Piano Concerto in A minor); Grieg (Symphony No 3); Schanzerka (Polish Dances, No 1) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music and conversation for the early hours with Alan Mann 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffin

RADIO 3

4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the jazz musician John Lovano, who is making an appearance at the Barbican in London 7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Maxim Vengerov, violin, London Symphony Orchestra under Mstislav Rostropovich 8.00 Shostakovich (Symphony, Violin Concerto, Violin Concerto No 1, Symphony No 10) 9.35 Postscript: Grave New World The sci-fi writer Paul McAuley projects the dreams and nightmares of genetic engineering 10.00 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson introduces another compilation from this year's Early Music Festival by John Ward, Dowland, Gregorio Huerf, Dufay, Handel and Byrd is performed by the ensemble including Emma Kirkby soprano, Nigel North, lute, and the ensemble Sironyes 10.45 *Eight* A discussion on the views of Deborah Tanner, who, in her new book *The Argument Culture*, challenges the notion that the best way to explore an idea is to set up a debate 11.30 Jazz Notes with Andy Sheppard 12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi (r) 1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

information is processed 5.00 PM with Chris Love and Charlie Lee-Potter 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Kate and Cindy The girls spend Christmas together and miss a skiing trip. Drama, by Sarah Polinska who also co-stars with Felicity Montagu 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row with Mark Lawson 7.45 *SMB* Wastes (r) 8.00 Coming from the Outside The recently knighted playwright David Hare reflects on his career, recalling the major trilogy he wrote for the National Theatre and his solo performance in *Ma Dolorosa* 8.30 The Week in Westminster A look behind the scenes at Westminster 9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on the latest scientific developments 9.30 In Our Time (r) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Le Grand Meaulnes* Alain-Fournier's classic tale of youthful idealism (4/10) (r) 11.00 Late Night on 4: The Cradley Topical comedy series, by Mike Haskins and Giff Rhys Jones. The latter's traumas continue. With Simon Godley and Felicity Montagu 11.15 World of Pub Tony Roche's comedy drama With Peter Serafinowicz and Phil Cornwell (r) 11.30 (LW) Today In Parliament A roundup of the day's events in Westminster 11.30 Year Plans: *Miner's* Conspiracy — Forging the Flood Plain A small town in Arkansas is a magnet for aspiring black families from nearby Little Rock 12.00 News 12.05am The Late Book News of a kidnapping Sean Barrett reads: Garcia Marquez's account of drug cartels in Colombia (r) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 *As World Service* 5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today

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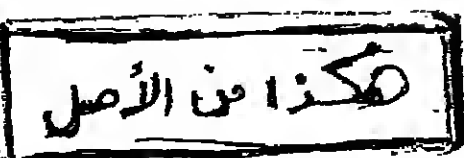
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For once a plot that was well worth losing

With BBC's new police series, *The Cops*, bringing us slam-bang up to the boobies do as much coke as the criminals, and Andrew Davies' adaptation of *Vanity Fair* shrugging off the years by giving us a Becky Sharp so knowing and modern that she could be a presenter on MTV, the latest Inspector Morse (ITV) decided it couldn't afford to just wallow in its time-warped 1950s haze. So it, too, has undertaken some time-travel. Only Morse has travelled backwards.

Far from having to confront a crime of the sort you find on the telly, we see in *The Cops*, (and possibly also loath to unearth yet another murder in his own backyard, lest it confirm Oxford as the city with a homicide rate matched only by the scariest parts of Los Angeles) Morse has returned to the scene of a crime that

was carried out 140 years earlier in Victorian England: he wants to unravel what he suspects is a miscarriage of justice. The result is that, while Thackeray's period piece feels modern and sumptuous, the modern-day Morse inhabits a world that looks antique and flat. *The Wench Is Dead* is even punctuated with flashbacks of bargemen and those lawyers with muton-chop whiskers you used to see in Sunday afternoon Dickens adaptations.

Frankly, the fact that Morse, felled by a peptic ulcer, spends most of the two hours in bed, does little to quicken the tempo. But then it's actually the ulcer that furnishes the twin coils of the plot: first, the Victorian murder is brought to Morse's attention by a visiting American academic (Lisa Eichhorn, making the best job she can of having to play a cartoon dumb Yank), whose lecture on the case Morse was attending when

harked back to a bygone era. *The Wench Is Dead* was an old man's paean to a more civilised age. Morse solves the murder with the traditional investigative tools of the Holmesian detective, telling a rookie that "the basis of detection is to keep asking why". And when the rookie remarks that the canals that carried goods across Victorian England were too slow, Morse hisses: "They weren't slow, they were measured! Things moved at a more natural speed."

So thank goodness that men like 101-year-old George Littlefair are around to remind you that the past isn't always all it's cracked up to be. He was there, George was among the 14 First World War veterans filmed for *The Soldiers' Pilgrimage* (BBC2) as they visited the battlefields of France and Belgium, where they had fought as teenagers. George served in the Durham Light Infantry alongside his best friend, Joe Coates: "We

had one another. If he had a biscuit, I got half a biscuit". They signed up together in November 1914, "brave new 18-year-olds. I've never been brave since." Joe never came back.

George was now finally able to pay his respects at Joe's grave. But it was when we saw George's eyes swim with joy as he played with his great-granddaughter that we understood just how remarkable these 14 men were. They have every reason to look back, but — unlike Morse the morose — they appreciate the glories of the present.

Like George Littlefair, Thora Hird's Violet in the last of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* (BBC2) was also scarred inside with memories of the Great War. She wouldn't sleep with Edward, the boyfriend she loved, on the night before he left for the trenches. Like Joe Coates, Edward never came

back. "I should've let him, shouldn't I? Violet weeps, "I've never forgiven myself." Violet may be defined by that incident in her past, and she may be trapped in a rest home, suffering the after-effects of a stroke, but she also knows that you must rise the day. When male residents from the floor below, taking advantage of the newly installed stairs, "visit" the ladies' dorm and expose himself, a nurse asks Violet if she'd like counselling.

"I said, 'Nurse, I'm nearly 95'. She said, 'Yes, Violet, but you're a victim.' I said, 'Well, I think a cup of tea will do the trick. Nurse, thank you.' My sadness melted into humour and then frozen again. Thora Hird was mesmerising. Was it because of its echo of war that this episode was broadcast on Armistice Day, or was that just the happy by-product of Bennett's decision to save the best till last?

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Morse's beers typically Lewis's exit has been sedate while soap stars seeking an exit from *EastEnders* or *Brookside* get killed in childbirth or road accidents, Lewis is away on an inspector's course) and Morse is still showing off his learning, his literary quotes continuing to land in the conversation as gracefully as watermelons tossed into an ornamental pond. But it wasn't just the plot that

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (72247)**
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (65541)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8714251)
9.40 Style Challenge (9557102)
10.05 City Hospital (T) (9691015)
10.55 News (9451299)
11.00 Real Rooms (9461676)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (8464763)
11.55 News (3569378) 12.00 Pass the Buck (402473) 12.25pm Going for a Song (4071880) 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (14918152)
1.00 News (T) and weather (75928)
1.30 Regional News (73424034)
1.40 Neighbours Karl accepts he must fight to keep his family (T) (87036251)
2.05 Inside (T) (9296541) 2.55 Wipeout (T) (2496034)
3.25 Playdays (T) (6152218) 3.55 Fireman Sam (T) (8647560) 3.55 Rugrats (T) (391102) 4.20 Mr Wymond (T) (4894367) 4.35 Smart (T) (7828831)
5.00 Newsworld (T) (4659541)
5.10 Byker Grove Teresa decides to teach Bridg a lesson; and Jack is more baffled than ever (T) (5971638)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (941184)
6.00 News (T) and weather (947)
6.30 Regional News (299)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer show (T) (8909)
7.30 EastEnders Phil takes drastic action to help Gordon Jamie in his hour of need (T) (183)
8.00 Animal Hospital Roll Harris meets a cat in need of an operation after swallowing cotton from her owner's sewing machine; and RSPCA ambulance drivers on the night shift (T) (7657)
8.30 The Zoo Keepers Winnie the emu develops a mean streak; and there's a lovers' tiff in the bird section (T) (6164)
9.00 News (T) and weather (8386)
9.30 Dinnerladies Now sitcom starring Victoria Wood (who also wrote it), Thelma Barlow, Anna Reid, Madeline Powell, Sharna Gulati, Julie Walters and Andrew Dunn (T) (21034)
10.00 They Think It's All Over A new series (T) (76956)
10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk More guests fight to get a word in (85744)
11.00 Question Time David Dimbleby invites questions from a studio audience in Glasgow for Helen Liddell, the Scottish Office Minister; Roseanna Cunningham, Deputy Leader of the SNP; Sir Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary; Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman for Health; and the television executive Sir Jeremy Isaacs (T) (754560)
12.05 am Oh, What a Night (1992)
 Romantic comedy set in the 1950s about two teenagers determined to find love and adventure during a hot summer. With Corey Haim, Barbara Williams and Robbie Coltrane. Directed by Eric Tzli (4013706)
1.30 Weather (1685400)
1.35 BBC News 24

- 6.10am A University Without Walls (3238638)** 6.35 Used to Work in the Fields (902541)
7.00 Garden Fairies (T) (587912) 7.05 Teletubbies (T) (2680454) 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (248295) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (T) (5784183) 8.20 Robby Rides (T) (T) (9384928) 8.45 Just So Stories (T) (6099034) 8.55 Garden Fairies (T) (5588305)
9.00 Dynamo (769980) 9.10 Bellefleur (5074154) 9.30 Watch (8631473) 9.45 Come Outside (8639928) 10.00 Teletubbies (26829) 10.30 Storyline (3267454) 10.45 Experiment (9008993) 11.05 Space Ark (9634473) 11.15 Zg Zag (T) (9951251) 11.35 Lise Lohr (T) (1311183) 12.00 Job Bank (8100034) 12.10pm English Film (9292828)
12.30 Working Lunch (6152) 1.00 Just So Stories (T) (9835458) 1.10 Sophie Grigson's Herbs (4326158) 1.15 The History Hour (T) (625541) 2.15 Match of the Day: Paul Jennings (7088057) 2.40 News (T); regional news and weather (7215454) 2.45 Westminster (T) (5127251) 3.25 News (T); regional news and weather (7901831) 3.30 Gardeners' World (T) (T) (305) 4.00 Change That (T) (T) (378194) 4.25 Robby Rides (T) (T) (3788251) 4.55 Lower When Her Job's Bigger Than His (T) (5553725) 5.30 Today's the Day (T) (876)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (281251) 6.45 Stargate (T) (520947)
7.30 First Sight (725) WALES: Edge of Blue Heaven (T) EAST: Matter of Fact SOUTH WEST: Close Up SOUTH: Southern Eye
8.00 Edge of Blue Heaven The team approach the Gobi Desert (T) (5299) WALES: Roy Noble on Common Ground
8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the Audi TT (T) (7034)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Sally falls madly in love with Dr Albright's distinguished father George (T) (315367)
9.25 Laboratory of War: The development of chemical weapons (T) (827473)
10.15 Vintners' Tales Corley & Barrow (T) (501522)
10.30 Newsworld (T) (404763) 11.15 Late Review (191500) 11.55 Weather 12.00 Dispatch Book (28482)
12.30 am Learning Zone: Leisure Sea 12.45 Wide Sargasso Sea (9650481) 1.20 Imagining News: Worlds (978182) 1.50 Open Later (1787050) 2.00 Problem Solver (32334) 4.00 Teaching Film and Media (70435) 4.30 Screening Histories (76058) 5.00 Teacher Training (53619) 5.30 Go Higher 2 (894313) 5.45 O.U. Putting Training to Work (85394)

- 6.00am GMTV (9167163)**
9.25 Trisha (T) (7622580)
10.15 This Morning (T) (141390541)
12.15 pm Regional News (3893367)
12.30 News (T) and weather (86198)
1.00 Shortland Street (60096)
1.30 Home and Away All moves out of his home and into the surf club (T) (16639)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3049819)
2.40 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (249218)
3.10 News (7900102)
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5.10 A Country Practice (4885744)
5.40 News (T) and weather (857386)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (250725)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (462299)
6.25 HTV Weather (868893)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (367)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris confronts Kim about Steve (T) (6305)
7.30 We Can Work It Out (251)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's Strike it Rich (T) (2725)
8.30 Police, Camera, Action! (T) (4569)

- 6.00am Sesame Street (93307)**
7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (8251)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (5070358) 9.20 Geographical Eye (5083102) 9.40 Off the Walls (9315676) 10.00 Middle English (3263096) 10.15 Schools at Work (2470096) 10.20 Fourways Farm (451473) 10.30 Scientific Eye (9002638) 10.50 Book Box Poetry (6673305) 11.00 Top! Auf Deutsch (2564)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7779) 12.00 Sesame Street (91305) 12.30pm Brookside (T) (T) (94980)
1.00 Waterloo Challenge (T) (T) (5231270)
1.35 Highland Journey 1950s travelogue (6702676)
2.00 Cage of Gold (1950) Ealing-made film starring Joan Sims, Joan Deakin, Farrar and James Donald. Directed by Basil Dearden (69589)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (473) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (880) 4.30 Countdown (T) (7912270)
4.55 Ricki Lake: Amazing Quads, Twins and Sextuplets (T) (548893) 5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (744)
6.00 Roseanne Dan tells a white lie to cover up a secret (T) (T) (657)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (909)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) and weather (109265) 7.50 Amistice Diary: Back to Bighly (234367)
8.00 Brookside Jimmy comes face to face with Paula and Lindsey's big day may be (T) (3692676)
8.30 Personal Services: Give a Dog a Home How British animal lovers need not put their dogs into kennels when they go away (T) (2102)

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (2971928)** 7.00 WideWorld (T) (T) (6637305)
7.30 Mavis Cheung (2111837) 7.35 What-A-Mess (T) (1141514)
8.00 Havalisao (T) (2034183) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (2033541)
9.00 The Antiques Hunter (T) (7053522) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (T) (476218)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7711681) 10.20 SunSet Beach (T) (2574947)
11.10 Lizza (T) (9588812) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2037270)
12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (975638)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6836676) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (7974909) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5282522) 2.30 Good Afternoon (6604305)

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Tony (Simon Chadwick) and Michael (Richard Standing) intervene (9pm)

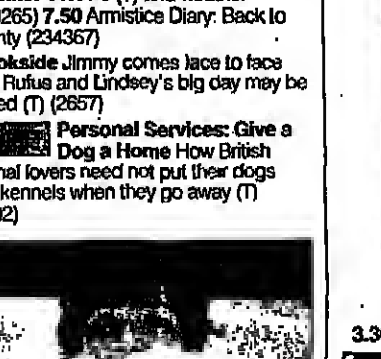
- 9.00 Picking Up the Pieces** Medical drama. Michael tries to help a battered wife (T) (757)
10.00 News (T) and weather (81164)
10.30 Regional News (527703)
10.40 WALES: The Ferret (487305)
10.40 Brief Encounters (487305)
11.10 WALES: World Wales (90218)
11.10 Canvas (90218)
11.40 WALES: We Can Work It Out (388096)
11.40 Run with the Ball (T) (388096)
12.10 am Jenny American sitcom with Jonny McCarthy, Heather Paige Kent and George Hamilton (7690435)
12.40 Highlander An immortal vigilante becomes obsessed with the idea that he has been chosen to wage a crusade against perversion (T) (1619139)
1.40 ITV at the Belfast Festival Highlights from the 1997 Festival featuring 16 Harp Opera, Soprano, Placido Domingo and Radiohead (8573874)
2.40 Cyber Cafe (T) (408481)
3.05 CD UK (T) (408481)
4.00 Trisha (T) (9958989)
4.50 Soundtrack (3620242)
5.05 TV Nightscreen (5198484)
5.30 News (78887)

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- 12.15pm-12.30 News and Weather (3893367)**
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4885744)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (269)
6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (367)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (518015)
10.45 FILM: The Last Boy Scout (2907229)
5.05am Freeracein (5198484)

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A new series looking at the workings of the human body (9pm)

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7.30 We Can Work It Out (251)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's Strike it Rich (T) (2725)
8.30 Police, Camera, Action! (T) (4569)

- 6.00am GMTV (9167163)**
9.25 Trisha (T) (7622580)
10.15 This Morning (T) (141390541)
12.15 pm Regional News (3893367)
12.30 News (T) and weather (86198)
1.00 Shortland Street (60096)
1.30 Home and Away All moves out of his home and into the surf club (T) (16639)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3049819)
2.40 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (249218)
3.10 News (7900102)
3.15 Regional News (7909473)
3.20 Wizzards (T) (7957638) 3.30 Kipper (7371522) 3.45 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (8623980) 3.55 Cow and Chicken (2584928) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (T) (9342541) 4.40 The Worst Witch (T) (9220589)
5.10 A Country Practice (4885744)
5.40 News (T) and weather (857386)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (250725)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (462299)
6.25 HTV Weather (868893)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (367)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris confronts Kim about Steve (T) (6305)
7.30 We Can Work It Out (251)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's Strike it Rich (T) (2725)
8.30 Police, Camera, Action! (T) (4569)



Tyrone Powers stars as a riverboat gambler in a classic drama (3.30pm)

- 6.00am GMTV (9167163)**
9.25 Trisha (T) (7622580)
10.15 This Morning (T) (141390541)
12.15 pm Regional News (3893367)
12.30 News (T) and weather (86198)
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- For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY 1**
- 7.00am The Simpsons (2358)** 7.30 Crime Scene Investigation (11123) 8.00 Gully (96337) 8.30 The Simpsons (2358) 9.00 The Simpsons (2358) 9.30 The Simpsons (2358) 10.00 The Simpsons (2358) 10.30 The Simpsons (2358) 11.00 The Simpsons (2358) 11.30 The Simpsons (2358) 12.00 The Simpsons (2358) 12.30 The Simpsons (2358) 1.00 The Simpsons (2358) 1.30 The Simpsons (2358) 2.00 The Simpsons (2358) 2.30 The Simpsons (2358) 3.00 The Simpsons (2358) 3.30 The Simpsons (2358) 4.00 The Simpsons (2358) 4.30 The Simpsons (2358) 5.00 The Simpsons (2358) 5.30 The Simpsons (2358) 6.00 The Simpsons (2358) 6.30 The Simpsons (2358) 7.00 The Simpsons (2358) 7.30 The Simpsons (2358) 8.00 The Simpsons (2358) 8.30 The Simpsons (2358) 9.00 The Simpsons (2358) 9.30 The Simpsons (2358) 10.00 The Simpsons (2358) 10.30 The Simpsons (2358) 11.00 The Simpsons (2358) 11.30 The Simpsons (2358) 12.00 The Simpsons (2358) 12.30 The Simpsons (2358) 1.00 The Simpsons (2358) 1.30 The Simpsons (2358) 2.00 The Simpsons (2358) 2.30 The Simpsons (2358) 3.00 The Simpsons (2358) 3.30 The Simpsons (2358) 4.00 The Simpsons (2358) 4.30 The Simpsons (2

SARAH POTTER 52

Family break spurs snooker's young blade to seek maximum

SPORT

CRICKET 50

West Indies make belated start to South African tour



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1998

Houllier expected to be put in sole charge of ailing Liverpool Anfield exit beckons Evans

By Matt Dickinson

MAYBE today, possibly tomorrow, Roy Evans is likely to bid farewell to Anfield and the club that he has served for 34 years.

Evans's dedication to Liverpool has never been doubted, but it appeared yesterday that there was nothing more for him to give.

While there was no official comment from the club, Anfield sources indicated that it was a matter of when, not if, the experiment with two managers would be written off as a short-lived mistake.

Gerard Houllier instructed to assume sole command. The Frenchman could even have both hands on the tiller by the time Leeds United visit on Saturday.

Evans is understood to have accepted that the job cannot be shared and although the Liverpool board has indicated that there is still a desk for him, he is unlikely to accept a post of glorified scout.

The split is likely to be officially described as being "by mutual consent", even though neither party will be happy at the outcome.

While David Moores, the chairman, has been unflinching in his support, reiterating as recently as this week that the partnership deserved more time, Evans, 50, appears to have spared the directors any more hand-wringing.

The timing of his departure is likely to depend on how long it takes to negotiate a substantial and well-earned pay-off, although Evans will not find it easy to walk away from a post "upstairs" after such a long association with the club.

Liverpool's form has largely drifted between poor and awful in the four months since Houllier was brought in and the side is in the bottom half of the FA Carling Premiership after 12 games.

They have lost successive home games to Derby County and Tottenham Hotspur and the manner of both defeats has raised questions over the credibility of having two voices in the dressing-room.

While Evans and Houllier have insisted that there have been no significant disagreements and called to account anyone who has suggested otherwise, management by committee has never proved successful in football, with this the latest in a succession of failed partnerships.

Soon it will all rest on Houllier, the former manager and technical director of the France national team, who has merely tinkered with the coaching set-up so far and appeared content to bide his time. Renowned for his expertise in coaching strategies and



Defeat by Tottenham Hotspur in the Worthington Cup at Anfield is likely to bring an end to Evans's 34-year association with Liverpool

the development of young players, he still has much to prove as a club manager and faces some weighty and pressing problems.

The most obvious is the need to sign a centre half of international calibre — something that has proved beyond Liverpool for several years — but there is also the prolonged uncertainty over Steve McManaman's contract, which expires this summer.

The club's failure to tie him down to a long-term deal will allow him to leave as a free agent in June and his departure would inevitably call into question Liverpool's stature as a force in the European game.

Most testing of all, though, will be whether the urbane Frenchman can suddenly instil vigour into players who have appeared to lack motivation even in critical matches, such as the shambolic 3-1 defeat to Tottenham on Tuesday, which ended the club's interest in the Worthington Cup.

Houllier's authority in the dressing-room can hardly have been augmented by his involvement in the unsatisfactory partnership with Evans and he will now have lost the element of fear and surprise that can enable a new manager to make a positive and immediate impression on players.

Liverpool's squad, more than most, appears to need a short, sharp shock, judging by recent slovenly performances. Evans certainly appeared to find difficulty in maximising the unarguable potential at Anfield and will be remembered as an affable man whose teams too often appeared to reflect his genial manner.

With player power rising in direct proportion to the colossal wages, there are few managers around who are able to instil hunger into a 25-year-old who already has enough money to retire and Evans, at times, appeared unable to ignite his talented squad.

Having joined the club as a teenager, the local lad progressed from reserve-team manager to coach during the years when the team was the best in Europe, and then assistant to Graeme Souness, from whom he took over as manager in January 1994.

Evans immediately restored order after the turbulent reign of his predecessor and won the Coca-Cola Cup in his first season. It was to prove his only piece of silverware, however. The manner of his exit is not as Evans would have liked, and, while the timing was still uncertain last night, it seems highly unlikely that he will still be in charge by the time of the club's annual meeting next Thursday.

Having joined the club as a teenager, the local lad progressed from reserve-team manager to coach during the years when the team was the best in Europe, and then assistant to Graeme Souness, from whom he took over as manager in January 1994.

Dalglish is given hope by McCann

By Our Sports Staff

FERGUS McCANN, the Celtic managing director, yesterday suggested that he may be open to persuasion as pressure mounted for him to consider the consortium, led by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr, which is keen to buy him out.

McCann reiterated that he would prefer, in the first instance, to offer existing shareholders the opportunity to invest at the end of the season, but conceded that, if he was convinced that another alternative was better for Celtic, he may reconsider.

He said: "I have had many approaches made in strict confidence. I would be delighted to talk to people with proposals. Whether they are of benefit to the club as a whole is then a question for the board to decide. But it is early days and we are yet to see a well-thought-out proposal from a well-funded source."

"I have not changed my position regarding what happens next year after I leave. That will be a matter for the shareholders to be given the opportunity to take up my shares. I will not change from that unless I am persuaded by the board, the supporters and others that something is better for Celtic."

"What I will say is that I will not be leaving early, that is before the end of the season. As I don't see any purpose in doing that at this stage, the position that I have is that the club and the board, in conjunction with me, would be happy to consider detailed proposals put forward by any reputable party which we felt would be of serious advantage to the club."

McCann said that, after the resignation of Jock Brown as general manager of the club last Saturday, he has assumed a more active role in dealing with Celtic's most pressing internal affairs.

He said: "We would listen to anything on a framework that would be of benefit to the club, but I don't want to get into any questions now that we are much more concerned with transfer and contract issues which have not been concluded."

McCann also stressed that there is no prospect of Henrik Larsson, the Sweden international, leaving, despite interest from Sheffield Wednes-

day, who are known to be ready to pay around £4 million for him.

"As far as Henrik is concerned, there is no thought on his part of leaving Celtic and that is very much the case on behalf of the club," McCann said. "He will not be leaving Celtic in any circumstances, either now or in the future. He is very happy here, as we are to have him."

Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, will bide his time before deciding whether to organise a campaign backing the consortium led by Dalglish and Kerr.

Rafferty is excited by the prospect of the takeover, but would prefer more details to emerge. He said: "We will



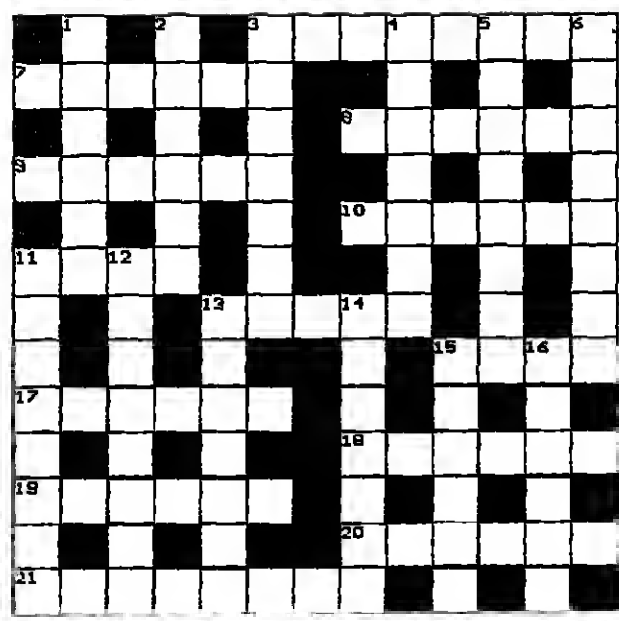
McCann: rethink

have to wait and see what is happening. It is too early to consider whether we might protest and what action we might take to do that. We really need to see this consortium meet with Mr McCann and see how negotiations go before we decide on anything we may do ourselves."

Ray Harford, who worked at Blackburn Rovers with Dalglish, believes he could be to Celtic what Franz Beckenbauer is to Bayern Munich. Harford, who would be in line for a coaching role at Celtic, said: "He is famous on a par with Beckenbauer and you can see what Beckenbauer is able to do with Bayern. I'm sure Kenny can do the same for Celtic."

"I can understand why this consortium wants Kenny to be the figurehead. It makes great sense, but it's not just the name — he has the presence, intelligence and ability to go with it."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1561

ACROSS

- 3 Friendly (8)
7 Nicked (6)
8 In the air: very quick (visit) (6)
9 Rich cake (6)
10 (Female) seclusion (6)
11 Knight's attendant (4)
12 Number of cards in the trick (5)
15 Young woman (4)
17 Eccentric (6)
18 Sharpness (of intellect) (6)
19 Deed; battle (6)
20 Overweening pride (6)
21 Song of lament for the dead (8)

DOWN

- 1 Rock layers (6)
2 Bring charge (that) (6)
3 Emotional torment (7)
4 Work together (to deceive) (7)
5 Port in bed of Italy (6)
6 Type of porcelain; (paint) with sheen (8)
11 Liking, inclination (8)
12 Energetic, self-made type (2-6)
13 China seas cyclone (7)
14 Instinctive fellow-feeling (7)
15 Soiled, dirty (6)
16 Keep in possession (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1560

- ACROSS: 1 Many 3 Graphic 8 Sawdust 9 Happy
10 Learn 11 Haricot 13 Kilometre 17 Returns 19 Cache
20 Flamed 22 Avignon 23 Trapez 24 Tome
DOWN: 1 Muscle 2 Newmarket 3 Get the message
4 Abhor 5 Hop 6 Coyote 7 Tunnel 12 Crescendo
14 Tactic 15 Profit 16 Seance 18 Ridge 21 Moa

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Viali offers boost for Casiraghi

By Our Sports Staff

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea player-manager, said yesterday that he expects Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Italian striker, to make an earlier than expected return from injury and ruled out any immediate move into the transfer market to replace him.

Casiraghi underwent an exploratory operation yesterday on the injury to his right knee that he sustained in a collision with Shaka Hislop and Rio Ferdinand during the 1-1 draw away to West Ham United on Sunday.

Surgeons also took the opportunity to repair some of the damage to his knee ligaments, but are now expected to wait for a further four to six weeks before a second, more significant, operation. He is likely to be out for several months, with a return to action before the end of this season still unlikely, but Viali believes his absence will be less than the year that has been forecast.

"Gigi is a very strong lad,"

Viali said. "This is not the first time that he has got injured so I think he knows what he has to face and he can cope with that."

"I'm sure that he's going to get over it very soon, sooner than expected, and will wear a



Beardsley and Keegan are joining forces at Fulham

Chelsea shirt very soon. At the moment he's a bit down of course, but he's really looking forward to this operation so he can think about the day when he will be able to play football again."

Fan Zhiyi, Crystal Palace's China defender, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for allegedly pushing a referee. The FA announced the charge after studying the referee, Terry Heilbron's, report on the incident, which occurred at the end of Palace's 3-2 defeat away to West Bromwich Albion.

Kevin Keegan, the Fulham chief operations manager, has signed Peter Beardsley on a free transfer from Bolton Wanderers. Beardsley had been on a three-month loan at Craven Cottage, but it had looked unlikely that a permanent deal could be agreed when Keegan said the club could not afford his wages.

However, a move has now been agreed and Beardsley, 37, who had seven months of his Bolton contract remaining, now becomes a permanent Fulham player.

Keegan said: "I still feel he has a lot to contribute although with the quality we already have in the side, it could be hard for Peter to earn a place."

Shane Westley was dismissed as manager of Lincoln City yesterday. Wally Downes, his assistant, and John Reames, the chairman, have taken over team affairs.

Westley took Lincoln to promotion from the National League third division last season, just two months after his appointment on the dismissal of John Beck, but they have suffered ten defeats in 12 matches and are bottom of the second division.

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, has signed Laurent Delorge, 19, from Ghent for £1.25 million.

Billiards player, 58, in drugs ban

By John Goodbody

YOUNG sportsmen and women crave to become champions and some will go to great lengths to find the magic potion that will help to improve their size, strength, speed and stamina.

Ben Johnson took anabolic steroids to become the world's fastest sprinter at the 1988 Olympic Games. Lyle Alzado swallowed thousands of drugs to become one of the toughest and meanest American footballers in history and then died from the effects of the abuse. Drugs have been used in physically demanding sports as diverse as rugby union and cycling, swimming and weightlifting.

Now, a frail 58-year-old Japanese man has become the oldest international sportsman to be tested positive for hormone drugs. He plays snooker and billiards, sports where skill and precision

are required rather than physical supremacy. Junzuke Inoue has been banned for two years and dropped from the 635-strong Japan team, in which he was the oldest competitor in nearly 30 sports, for the Asian Games in Bangkok.

All of the Japan party were tested for drugs before their departure from Tokyo and Inoue was found positive for methyltestosterone, which he had bought over the counter from a chemist to give him extra energy.

Takashi Kawahara, who heads the Japanese Olympic Committee's anti-doping committee, said: "He admitted taking the drug. It may be ascribed to a lack of awareness about doping but, in any case, we will have to make efforts to enlighten

athletes." Inoue is not being replaced in the Japan team for billiards, a sport making its debut at the Games.

Teruji Kokage, who heads the Japanese delegation to Bangkok, said he regretted that a "drug cheat" had been discovered. "We will fight with utmost care not to produce any offender from our top competitors," Kokage said.

Snooker has had problems with social drugs, such as cocaine and marijuana, but the only performance-enhancing substance to have afflicted the sport has been the beta-blocker.

Older players have argued that they have needed these calming drugs for their health, because they are not fully fit. But no one has previously taken anabolic steroids to improve their physical powers for the sport.

CENTRAL AMERICA HURRICANE APPEAL
No-one can have missed the distressing pictures showing the misery brought about when Hurricane Mitch swept through Central America. 12,000 dead, up to 2 million made homeless, crops destroyed, roads and bridges swept away, whole communities lost.
Y Care International, part of the YMCA, have been active in Central America for over 12 years with a network of local volunteers.
Thousands of people desperately need food, medicines, clothing and shelter. We are there now working to relieve the suffering and will be there for years to come. Please help the survivors overcome this terrible nightmare and rebuild their lives by sending whatever you can today.
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